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PCT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF THE RECORDING
OF A CHANGE(PCT Rule 92bis.1 and
Administrative Instructions, Section 422)

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

To:

GILL JENNINGS & EVERY
Broadgate House
7 Eldon Street
London EC2M 7LH
ROYAUME-UNI

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 14 February 2000 (14.02.00)	IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION
Applicant's or agent's file reference HMJ03057WO	
International application No. PCT/GB99/02320	International filing date (day/month/year) 19 July 1999 (19.07.99)

1. The following indications appeared on record concerning:

☒

the applicant

☒

the inventor

☐

the agent

☐

the common representative

Name and Address

LENNON, Paul, Frances
24, Rue Boyer-Barret
F-75014 Paris
France

State of Nationality

GB

State of Residence

FR

Telephone No.

Facsimile No.

Teleprinter No.

2. The International Bureau hereby notifies the applicant that the following change has been recorded concerning:

☐

the person

☒

the name

☐

the address

☐

the nationality

☐

the residence

Name and Address

LENNON, Paula, Frances
24, Rue Boyer-Barret
F-75014 Paris
France

State of Nationality

GB

State of Residence

FR

Telephone No.

Facsimile No.

Teleprinter No.

3. Further observations, if necessary:

4. A copy of this notification has been sent to:

☒

the receiving Office

☐

the International Searching Authority

☐

the International Preliminary Examining Authority

☒

the designated Offices concerned

☐

the elected Offices concerned

☐

other:

The International Bureau of WIPO
34, chemin des Colombettes
1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland

Authorized officer

R. Chrem

Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35

Telephone No.: (41-22) 338.83.38

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF THE RECORDING
OF A CHANGE(PCT Rule 92bis.1 and
Administrative Instructions, Section 422)

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

To:

GILL JENNINGS & EVERY
Broadgate House
7 Eldon Street
London EC2M 7LH
ROYAUME-UNI

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 04 December 2000 (04.12.00)	IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION
Applicant's or agent's file reference HMJ03057WO	
International application No. PCT/GB99/02320	International filing date (day/month/year) 19 July 1999 (19.07.99)

1. The following indications appeared on record concerning:

☒ the applicant
 ☐ the inventor
 ☐ the agent
 ☐ the common representative

Name and Address

 BIOCOMPATIBLES LIMITED
 Frensham House
 Farnham Business Park
 Weydon Lane
 Farnham, Surrey GU9 8QL
 United Kingdom

State of Nationality

GB

State of Residence

GB

Telephone No.

Facsimile No.

Teleprinter No.

2. The International Bureau hereby notifies the applicant that the following change has been recorded concerning:

☐ the person
 ☐ the name
 ☒ the address
 ☐ the nationality
 ☐ the residence

Name and Address

 BIOCOMPATIBLES LIMITED
 Chapman House
 Farnham Business Park
 Weydon Lane
 Farnham, Surrey GU9 8QL
 United Kingdom

State of Nationality

GB

State of Residence

GB

Telephone No.

Facsimile No.

Teleprinter No.

3. Further observations, if necessary:

4. A copy of this notification has been sent to:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> the receiving Office	<input type="checkbox"/> the designated Offices concerned
<input type="checkbox"/> the International Searching Authority	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> the elected Offices concerned
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> the International Preliminary Examining Authority	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

 The International Bureau of WIPO
 34, chemin des Colombettes
 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland

Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35

Authorized officer

R. Chrem

Telephone No.: (41-22) 338.83.38

INTERNET COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION

(PCT Rule 61.2)

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

To:

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark
Office
Box PCT
Washington, D.C. 20231
ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE

in its capacity as elected Office

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 24 February 2000 (24.02.00)	Applicant's or agent's file reference HMJ03057WO
International application No. PCT/GB99/02320	Priority date (day/month/year) 17 July 1998 (17.07.98)
International filing date (day/month/year) 19 July 1999 (19.07.99)	
Applicant MUIR, Andrew, Victor, Graham et al	

1. The designated Office is hereby notified of its election made:

☒ in the demand filed with the International Preliminary Examining Authority on:

28 January 2000 (28.01.00)

☐ in a notice effecting later election filed with the International Bureau on:
2. The election ☒ was
☐ was not

made before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date or, where Rule 32 applies, within the time limit under Rule 32.2(b).

<p>The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland</p> <p>Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35</p>	<p>Authorized officer Juan Cruz</p> <p>Telephone No.: (41-22) 338.83.38</p>
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PCT COOPERATION TREATY

27

PTO/PCT Rec'd 10 JAN 2001
PCT

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

To:

GILL JENNINGS & EVERY

NOTIFICATION CONCERNING
SUBMISSION OR TRANSMITTAL
OF PRIORITY DOCUMENT

(PCT Administrative Instructions, Section 411)

GILL JENNINGS & EVERY
Broadgate House
7 Eldon Street
London EC2M 7LH
ROYAUME-UNI

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 20 September 1999 (20.09.99)	IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION
Applicant's or agent's file reference HMJ03057WO	
International application No. PCT/GB99/02320	International filing date (day/month/year) 19 July 1999 (19.07.99)
International publication date (day/month/year) Not yet published	Priority date (day/month/year) 17 July 1998 (17.07.98)
Applicant BIOCOMPATIBLES LIMITED et al	

1. The applicant is hereby notified of the date of receipt (except where the letters "NR" appear in the right-hand column) by the International Bureau of the priority document(s) relating to the earlier application(s) indicated below. Unless otherwise indicated by an asterisk appearing next to a date of receipt, or by the letters "NR", in the right-hand column, the priority document concerned was submitted or transmitted to the International Bureau in compliance with Rule 17.1(a) or (b).
2. This updates and replaces any previously issued notification concerning submission or transmittal of priority documents.
3. An asterisk(*) appearing next to a date of receipt, in the right-hand column, denotes a priority document submitted or transmitted to the International Bureau but not in compliance with Rule 17.1(a) or (b). In such a case, the attention of the applicant is directed to Rule 17.1(c) which provides that no designated Office may disregard the priority claim concerned before giving the applicant an opportunity, upon entry into the national phase, to furnish the priority document within a time limit which is reasonable under the circumstances.
4. The letters "NR" appearing in the right-hand column denote a priority document which was not received by the International Bureau or which the applicant did not request the receiving Office to prepare and transmit to the International Bureau, as provided by Rule 17.1(a) or (b), respectively. In such a case, the attention of the applicant is directed to Rule 17.1(c) which provides that no designated Office may disregard the priority claim concerned before giving the applicant an opportunity, upon entry into the national phase, to furnish the priority document within a time limit which is reasonable under the circumstances.

<u>Priority date</u>	<u>Priority application No.</u>	<u>Country or regional Office or PCT receiving Office</u>	<u>Date of receipt of priority document</u>
17 July 1998 (17.07.98)	98305748.0	EP	26 Augu 1999 (26.08.99)

The International Bureau of WIPO
34, chemin des Colombettes
1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland

Facsimile No. (41-22) 740.14.35

Authorized officer

P. Asseeff

Telephone No. (41-22) 338.83.38

From the
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

To:

GILL JENNINGS & EVERY
Broadgate House
7 Eldon Street
London EC2M 7LH
GRANDE BRETAGNE

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF
THE INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT
(PCT Rule 71.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) 26.09.2000

Applicant's or agent's file reference
HMJ03057WO

IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION

International application No.
PCT/GB99/02320

International filing date (day/month/year)
19/07/1999

Priority date (day/month/year)
17/07/1998

Applicant
BIOCOMPATIBLES LIMITED et al.

1. The applicant is hereby notified that this International Preliminary Examining Authority transmits herewith the international preliminary examination report and its annexes, if any, established on the international application.
2. A copy of the report and its annexes, if any, is being transmitted to the International Bureau for communication to all the elected Offices.
3. Where required by any of the elected Offices, the International Bureau will prepare an English translation of the report (but not of any annexes) and will transmit such translation to those Offices.

4. REMINDER

The applicant must enter the national phase before each elected Office by performing certain acts (filing translations and paying national fees) within 30 months from the priority date (or later in some Offices) (Article 39(1)) (see also the reminder sent by the International Bureau with Form PCT/IB/301).

Where a translation of the international application must be furnished to an elected Office, that translation must contain a translation of any annexes to the international preliminary examination report. It is the applicant's responsibility to prepare and furnish such translation directly to each elected Office concerned.

For further details on the applicable time limits and requirements of the elected Offices, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

Name and mailing address of the IPEA/

 European Patent Office
D-80298 Munich
Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d
Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465

Authorized officer

Aperribay, I

Tel. +49 89 2399-8154



PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

DIARIED
PCT

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF
THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
OR THE DECLARATION

(PCT Rule 44.1)

To:

GILL JENNINGS & EVERY
Attn. GILL JENNINGS&EVERY
Broadgate House
7 Eldon Street
London EC2M 7LH
UNITED KINGDOM

RECEIVED

13 DEC 1999

GILL JENNINGS & EVERY

Date of mailing
(day/month/year)

08/12/1999

Applicant's or agent's file reference

HMJ03057W0

FOR FURTHER ACTION

See paragraphs 1 and 4 below

International application No.

PCT/GB 99/ 02320

International filing date

(day/month/year)

19/07/1999

Applicant

BIOCOMPATIBLES LIMITED et al.

1. ☒ The applicant is hereby notified that the International Search Report has been established and is transmitted herewith.

Filing of amendments and statement under Article 19:

The applicant is entitled, if he so wishes, to amend the claims of the International Application (see Rule 46):

When? The time limit for filing such amendments is normally 2 months from the date of transmittal of the International Search Report; however, for more details, see the notes on the accompanying sheet.

Where? Directly to the International Bureau of WIPO
34, chemin des Colombettes
1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland
Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35

For more detailed instructions, see the notes on the accompanying sheet.

2. ☐ The applicant is hereby notified that no International Search Report will be established and that the declaration under Article 17(2)(a) to that effect is transmitted herewith.

3. ☐ With regard to the protest against payment of (an) additional fee(s) under Rule 40.2, the applicant is notified that:

☐ the protest together with the decision thereon has been transmitted to the International Bureau together with the applicant's request to forward the texts of both the protest and the decision thereon to the designated Offices.

☐ no decision has been made yet on the protest; the applicant will be notified as soon as a decision is made.

4. **Further action(s):** The applicant is reminded of the following:

Shortly after 18 months from the priority date, the international application will be published by the International Bureau. If the applicant wishes to avoid or postpone publication, a notice of withdrawal of the international application, or of the priority claim, must reach the International Bureau as provided in Rules 90bis.1 and 90bis.3, respectively, before the completion of the technical preparations for international publication.

Within 19 months from the priority date, a demand for international preliminary examination must be filed if the applicant wishes to postpone the entry into the national phase until 30 months from the priority date (in some Offices even later).

Within 20 months from the priority date, the applicant must perform the prescribed acts for entry into the national phase before all designated Offices which have not been elected in the demand or in a later election within 19 months from the priority date or could not be elected because they are not bound by Chapter II.

Name and mailing address of the International Searching Authority



European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL-2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Alicja Van der Heijden

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference HMJ03057W0	FOR FURTHER ACTION see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. PCT/GB 99/ 02320	International filing date (day/month/year) 19/07/1999	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 17/07/1998
Applicant BIOCOMPATIBLES LIMITED et al.		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 03 sheets.

☒ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

- a. With regard to the language, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☐ the international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

- b. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing :

☐ contained in the international application in written form.

☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.

☐ the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.

☐ the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished

2. ☐ Certain claims were found unsearchable (See Box I).

3. ☐ Unity of Invention is lacking (see Box II).

4. With regard to the title,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the abstract,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. The figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is Figure No. _____

☐ as suggested by the applicant.

☐ because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.

☐ because this figure better characterizes the invention.

☐ None of the figures.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/GB 99/02320

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 C08J5/00 C08F246/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 C08J C08F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 705 583 A (R.W.J. BOWERS ET AL.) 6 January 1998 (1998-01-06)	20-30
Y	column 5, line 19 - line 51 column 17, line 15 - line 67 column 19, line 48 - column 20, line 28 column 20, line 35 - column 22, line 10 column 23, line 12 - line 32 column 49, line 48 - column 50, line 17 and claim 4 & WO 93 01221 A cited in the application ----- -/--	1-19

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- "&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

2 December 1999

Date of mailing of the international search report

08/12/1999

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Hallemeesch, A

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/GB 99/02320

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 0 362 137 A (CIBA GEIGY AB) 4 April 1990 (1990-04-04) cited in the application	16-19
Y	claims 1, 11, 17-24, 28, 29 page 4, line 10 - line 14 page 4, line 18 - line 20 page 4, line 24 - line 32 -----	1-19

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/GB 99/02320

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 5705583	A	06-01-1998	AU 666485 B	15-02-1996
			AU 2231092 A	11-02-1993
			AU 697066 B	24-09-1998
			AU 4030995 A	22-02-1996
			AU 7993198 A	08-10-1998
			AU 7993298 A	08-10-1998
			CA 2112411 A	21-01-1993
			EP 0593561 A	27-04-1994
			EP 0810239 A	03-12-1997
			WO 9301221 A	21-01-1993
			JP 11166015 A	22-06-1999
			JP 11166018 A	22-06-1999
			JP 11166150 A	22-06-1999
			JP 7502053 T	02-03-1995
			US 5648442 A	15-07-1997
			US 5739236 A	14-04-1998
			US 5783650 A	21-07-1998
			EP 0818479 A	14-01-1998
			EP 0861858 A	02-09-1998
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EP 362137	A	04-04-1990	AU 624178 B	04-06-1992
			AU 4172589 A	05-04-1990
			CA 1323739 A	02-11-1993
			DK 475789 A	29-03-1990
			IL 91711 A	24-06-1994
			JP 2124523 A	11-05-1990
			MX 17691 A,B	01-10-1993
			PT 91801 A,B	30-03-1990
			US 5010155 A	23-04-1991
<hr/>				

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference HMJ03057WO	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/GB99/02320	International filing date (day/month/year) 19/07/1999	Priority date (day/month/year) 17/07/1998
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC C08J5/00		
Applicant BIOCOMPATIBLES LIMITED et al.		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.



2. This REPORT consists of a total of 6 sheets, including this cover sheet.

- ☒ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 4 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☒ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 28/01/2000	Date of completion of this report 26.09.2000
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized officer Idez, C Telephone No. +49 89 2399 8665 

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/GB99/02320

I. Basis of the report

1. This report has been drawn on the basis of (*substitute sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to the report since they do not contain amendments.*):

Description, pages:

1-49 as originally filed

Claims, No.:

8-15,16 (part),20 (part), as originally filed
21-30

1-7,16 (part),17-19, as received on 21/08/2000 with letter of 16/08/2000
20 (part)

2. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
☐ the claims, Nos.:
☐ the drawings, sheets:

3. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)):

4. Additional observations, if necessary:

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims 1-19
	No: Claims 20-30
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims 11-12, 16-19
	No: Claims 1-10, 13-15
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims 1-30
	No: Claims

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/GB99/02320

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

VIII. Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

see separate sheet

1) Concerning point V:

1.1) Reference is made to the following documents:

D1 = US-A-5705583

D2 = EP-A-362137

1.2) D1 discloses copolymers obtained by copolymerizing monomers having zwitterionic groups, monomers having two unsaturated groups, and monomers having "crosslinkable groups". A diluent monomer may also be added. These copolymers are used in coating compositions. The copolymers also contain reactive groups which are able to bind the polymer to the surface (see D1, claims 1,4, 8, 15 ; column 5, lines 19-51; column 17, line 3 to column 20, line 67; column 23, lines 17- 63; column 25, line 38 to column 30, line 1). D1 is considered as a novelty destroying document for the subject-matter of present claims 20-30. (Art.33(2)).

1.3) Concerning claims 16 to 19: D2 discloses an in-mould coating process comprising coating a mould with a polymer composition and polymerizing a monomer mixture in contact with the coated mould whereby the coating exhibits reactive sites with the monomer mixture. Since D2 does not disclose the specific dual unsaturated monomers used for making the coating polymer, the subject-matter of these claims is novel over D2. (Art.33(2)). It can also be accepted that there is no indication in D2 to use such monomers in an in-mould-coating process in order to achieve the bonding between the coating and the curable composition. Thus, inventive step can be acknowledged for the subject-matter of present claims 16 to 19. (art.33(3)).

1.4) Concerning claims 1 to 15: The subject-matter of present claims 1 to 15 is novel over D1 and D2, since these documents do not disclose an in-mould coating process using a polymer exhibiting zwitterionic groups. (Art.33(2)).
Polymers coated with coatings exhibiting zwitterionic groups are known from D1. The use of in-mould coating for coating polymers is known from D2. The polymers used for

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/GB99/02320

the coating exhibit reactive groups with the polymer to be coated. It is presently unclear which technical problem is solved in an unexpected manner by using polymers having zwitterionic groups for the coating. Inventive step cannot presently be acknowledged for the subject-matter of present claims 1 to 10 and 13-15. (Art.33(3)).

It can be accepted that the use of monomers having a dual unsaturation in order to achieve the bonding of the coating to the curable composition is not suggested in D2. Thus, inventive step can be acknowledged for the subject-matter of present claims 11-12. (Art.33(3)).

2) Concerning point VIII:

2.1) Present claim 4 is totally unclear (further from the backbone from the anion..). (Art.6).

2.2) It is unclear what is meant by the wordings "cross-linkable **monomer**" or "crosslinkable group". This renders the claims in which these wordings occur unclear. (Art.6).

2.3) The wording "**oligo-oxaalkylene**" is vague and renders the claims in which it occurs unclear. (Art.6).

2.4) The reference to a polymer A' in present claim 16 is unclear. (Art.6).

2.5) The reference to a soluble polymer A in claim 19 is unclear. (Art.6).

2.6) Wordings such as "substantially", "any significant degree" are vague and render unclear the claims in which they occur. (Art.6).

2.7) The mole ratio indicated in present claim 25 is meaningless since the basis for the calculation of this ratio is not indicated. (Art.6).

2.8) The wording "diluent monomer" used in present claim 24 is vague. (Art.6).

2.9) No support can be found for present claim 22 in the description. (Art.6).

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

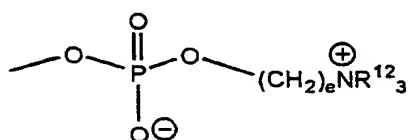
International application No. PCT/GB99/02320

2.10) In example 5 , it is unclear why the **moulds** are treated for increased adhesion. This does not appear to be in accordance with the claimed process . (Art.6).

2.11) Features of claims 12 and 19 appears to be essential to the claimed processes and should therefore incorporated into the independent process claims. (Art.6).

CLAIMS:

1. A method for providing a coated moulded polymer article in which:
 - a) at least a portion of the surface of a mould is provided with a coating of polymer A having pendant reactive groups, wherein the mould is substantially free of surface functional groups capable of reacting to form covalent bonds with pendant reactive groups of polymer A,
 - b) a liquid curable composition comprising a functional compound reactive with the reactive groups of polymer A is contacted with the mould whereby the composition is in contact with the coated portions of the mould surface, and
 - c) the curable composition is cured to form bulk polymer B under condition such that reaction takes place between the said functional compound and the reactive groups of polymer A to form a covalent bond linking polymer A to polymer B at least at the interface between the coating and bulk polymer B and the bulk polymer B with polymer A coating is demoulded, characterised in that polymer A includes zwitterionic groups X.
2. A method according to claim 1 in which groups X are pendant groups from the backbone of polymer A.
3. A method according to claim 1 or claim 2 in which in groups X, the atom bearing an anionic charge and the atom bearing a cationic charge are separated by 2 to 12 atoms, preferably 2 to 8, more preferably 2 to 6 atoms.
4. A method according to claim 3, in which the cation is further from the polymer backbone from the anion.
5. A method according to any preceding claim in which the cationic group is a quaternary ammonium group.
6. A method according to any preceding claim in which the anionic group is a phosphate diester group.
7. A method according to any preceding claim in which X is of formula VI



VI

50a

where the groups R^{12} are the same or different and each is hydrogen or C_{1-4} alkyl, and e is from 1 to 4.

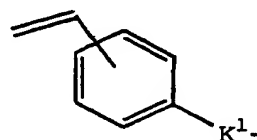
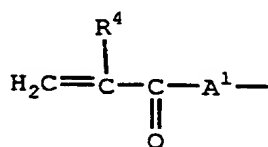
- c) the curable composition is cured to form bulk polymer B under condition such that reaction takes place between the said functional compound and the reactive groups of polymer A to form a covalent bond linking polymer A to polymer B at least at the interface between the coating and bulk polymer B, characterised in that polymer A' is a substantially non-crosslinked polymer formed from ethylenically unsaturated monomers including monomer of the general formula IX



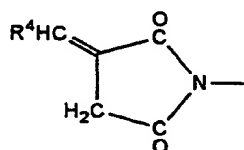
IX

wherein B^4 is a straight or branched alkylene, oxaalkylene or oligo-oxaalkylene chain optionally containing one or more fluorine atoms up to and including perfluorinated chains, or a valence bond;

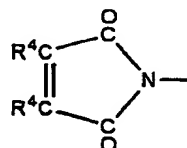
Y^1 is an ethylenically unsaturated polymerisable group selected from



$CH_2=C(R^4)-CH_2-O-$, $CH_2=C(R^4)-CH_2OC(O)-$, $CH_2=C(R^4)OC(O)-$, $CH_2=C(R^4)-O-$, $CH_2=C(R^4)CH_2OC(O)N(R^5)-$, $R^{31}OOC CR^4=CR^4C(O)-O-$, $R^4H=CHC(O)-O-$, $R^4H=C(COOR^{31})CH_2C(O)O-$



and



where R^4 is hydrogen or C_1 - C_4 alkyl;

R^{31} is hydrogen, a C_{1-4} -alkyl group or a group $B^4 R^3$;

A^1 is $-O-$ or $-NR^5-$; R^5 is hydrogen or a C_1 - C_4 alkyl group or R^5 is a group Q;

K^1 is a group $-(CH_2)_i OC(O)-$, $-(CH_2)_i C(O)O-$, $-(CH_2)_i OC(O)O-$, $-(CH_2)_i NR^6-$, $-(CH_2)_i NR^6 C(O)-$,

54a

$-(\text{CH}_2)_l\text{C}(\text{O})\text{NR}^6-$, $-(\text{CH}_2)_l\text{NR}^6\text{C}(\text{O})\text{O}-$, $-(\text{CH}_2)_l\text{OC}(\text{O})\text{NR}^6-$, $-(\text{CH}_2)_l\text{NR}^6\text{C}(\text{O})\text{NR}^6-$ (in which the groups R^6 are the same or different), $-(\text{CH}_2)_l\text{O}-$, $-(\text{CH}_2)_l\text{SO}_3-$, a valence bond and l is from 1 to 12 and R^6 is hydrogen or a C_1 - C_4 alkyl group; and

R^{15} is a reactive group and comprises an ethylenically unsaturated group,
5 provided that R^{15} is not the same as Y^1 .

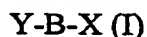
17. A method according to claim 16 in which the curable composition comprises siloxane monomers and the polymer B is a polysiloxane.

18. A method according to claim 16 in which the curable composition comprises ethylenically unsaturated monomers and the curing involves radical polymerisation of
10 the ethylenically unsaturated polymerisable groups.

19. A method according to claim 18 involving a preliminary step of polymerising ethylenically unsaturated monomers under radical polymerisation conditions to form soluble polymer A, under conditions such that ethylenically unsaturated groups R^{15} do not polymerise to any significant degree.

15 20. A polymer formed by polymerising ethylenically unsaturated monomers including

a) a zwitterionic monomer of the general formula I



wherein B is a straight or branched alkylene, oxaalkylene or oligo-oxaalkylene chain
20 optionally containing one or more fluorine atoms up to and including perfluorinated chains or, if X or Y contains a terminal carbon atom bonded to B, a valence bond;

X is the zwitterionic group and

Y is an ethylenically unsaturated polymerisable group selected from

25

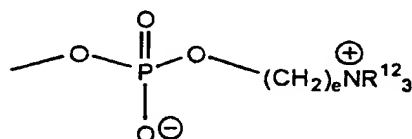
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CLAIMS:

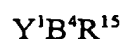
1. A method for providing a coated moulded polymer article in which:
- a) at least a portion of the surface of a mould is provided with a coating of polymer A having pendant reactive groups,
- 5 b) a liquid curable composition comprising a functional compound reactive with the reactive groups of polymer A is contacted with the mould whereby the composition is in contact with the coated portions of the mould surface, and
- c) the curable composition is cured to form bulk polymer B under condition such that reaction takes place between the said functional compound and
- 10 the reactive groups of polymer A to form a covalent bond linking polymer A to polymer B at least at the interface between the coating and bulk polymer B, characterised in that polymer A includes zwitterionic groups X.
2. A method according to claim 1 in which groups X are pendant groups from the backbone of polymer A.
- 15 3. A method according to claim 1 or claim 2 in which in groups X, the atom bearing an anionic charge and the atom bearing a cationic charge are separated by 2 to 12 atoms, preferably 2 to 8, more preferably 2 to 6 atoms.
4. A method according to claim 3, in which the cation is further from the polymer backbone from the anion.
- 20 5. A method according to any preceding claim in which the cationic group is a quaternary ammonium group.
6. A method according to any preceding claim in which the anionic group is a phosphate diester group.
7. A method according to any preceding claim in which X is of formula VI



VI

where the groups R^{12} are the same or different and each is hydrogen or C_{1-4} alkyl, and e is from 1 to 4.

c) the curable composition is cured to form bulk polymer B under condition such that reaction takes place between the said functional compound and the reactive groups of polymer A to form a covalent bond linking polymer A to polymer B at least at the interface between the coating and bulk polymer B, characterised in that polymer A' is a substantially non-crosslinked polymer formed from ethylenically unsaturated monomers including monomer of the general formula IX



IX

and

R¹⁵ is a reactive group and comprises an ethylenically unsaturated group, provided that R¹⁵ is not the same as Y¹.

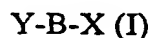
17. A method according to claim 16 in which the curable composition comprises siloxane monomers and the polymer B is a polysiloxane.

18. A method according to claim 16 in which the curable composition comprises ethylenically unsaturated monomers and the curing involves radical polymerisation of the ethylenically unsaturated polymerisable groups.

19. A method according to claim 18 involving a preliminary step of polymerising ethylenically unsaturated monomers under radical polymerisation conditions to form soluble polymer A, under conditions such that ethylenically unsaturated groups R¹⁵ do not polymerise to any significant degree.

20. A polymer formed by polymerising ethylenically unsaturated monomers including

a) a zwitterionic monomer of the general formula I



wherein B is a straight or branched alkylene, oxaalkylene or oligo-oxaalkylene chain optionally containing one or more fluorine atoms up to and including perfluorinated chains or, if X or Y contains a terminal carbon atom bonded to B, a valence bond;

X is the zwitterionic group and

Y is an ethylenically unsaturated polymerisable group selected from



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(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB99/02320 (22) International Filing Date: 19 July 1999 (19.07.99) (30) Priority Data: 98305748.0 17 July 1998 (17.07.98) EP (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): BIOCOMPATIBLES LIMITED [GB/GB]; Frensham House, Farnham Business Park, Weydon Lane, Farnham, Surrey GU9 8QL (GB). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): MUIR, Andrew, Victor, Graham [GB/GB]; 5 Rupert Road, Guildford, Surrey GU2 5NE (GB). LENNON, Paul, Frances [GB/FR]; 24, Rue Boyer-Barret, F-75014 Paris (FR). WILLIS, Sean, Leo [GB/GB]; Biocompatibles Limited, Frensham House, Farnham Business Park, Weydon Lane, Farnham, Surrey GU9 8QL (GB). REDMAN, Richard, Paul [GB/GB]; Biocompatibles Limited, Frensham House, Farnham Business Park, Weydon Lane, Farnham, Surrey GU9 8QL (GB). COLLIAS, Anthony, Claude, Marie [FR/GB]; Biocompatibles Limited, Frensham House, Farnham Business Park, Weydon Lane, Farnham, Surrey GU9 8QL (GB).		(74) Agent: GILL JENNINGS & EVERY; Broadgate House, 7 Eldon Street, London EC2M 7LH (GB). (81) Designated States: AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>With international search report.</i> <i>Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i>
(54) Title: METHOD FOR PROVIDING COATED MOULDED POLYMERIC ARTICLES		
(57) Abstract <p>A method in which a mould is coated with a reactive polymer, a liquid curable composition is filled into the mould and cured under conditions such that the reactive polymer becomes covalently bonded to the cured bulk mould material at the interface. The reactive polymer has zwitterionic groups to confer improved biocompatibility on the moulded product. The reactive group on the reactive polymer is conveniently an ethylenically unsaturated group. The curable composition is suitably a radical polymerisable ethylenically unsaturated monomer mixture or a platinum-curable liquid silicone composition.</p>		

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METHOD FOR PROVIDING COATED MOULDED
POLYMERIC ARTICLES

The present invention relates to processes for making coated moulded polymeric articles, in which the coating is firmly adhered to the product and provides
5 an article having different surface properties to the properties of the bulk.

It is frequently desirable to impart to the surface of a polymeric article properties different to the bulk. For instance it is often desirable to provide a hydrophobic bulk polymer with a hydrophilic surface, or visa versa. Alternatively it may be desirable to stabilise the surface of a relatively lightly crosslinked polymer by
10 providing a relatively more highly crosslinked surface coating.

In our earlier application no. WO-A-93/01221 we described coatings for polymeric substrates, formed of polymers with zwitterionic pendant groups. The polymers provide the substrate with improved biocompatibility and haemocompatibility. The polymers may be hydrophobically adsorbed onto the
15 surface, or may be ionically linked to the surface or, preferably, may be stabilised on the surface by provision of covalent bonding between surface functional groups and reactive groups on the polymer reactive therewith. Similar copolymers may be crosslinkable after coating, for instance by post-coating exposure to conditions whereby intermolecular crosslinking takes place. One example of a reactive group is
20 provided by an ethylenically unsaturated group in a monomer from which the copolymer is formed. Such ethylenically unsaturated groups may be crosslinked in a intermolecular addition reaction between the ethylenically unsaturated groups of adjacent polymer chains. Alternatively the ethylenically unsaturated pendant group may be reacted with surface functional groups to provide a covalent bond with the
25 substrate surface.

In our earlier application no. WO-A-93/05081 a polymeric substrate is provided with surface zwitterionic groups by grafting, for instance graft (co) polymerisation, of a compound bearing a zwitterionic group.

Both the above approaches to provision of covalently bonded coatings having
30 zwitterionic groups require the provision of a substrate having surface functional groups. Where the starting material is substantially non-functional, it may be necessary to activate the surface, for instance by using an oxygen plasma pre-

treatment step, to provide functional groups prior to the coating or grafting step. Alternatively it may be possible to adapt the material of the substrate, during production, to introduce surface functional groups. However where the product is made in a polymerisation stage, it will be necessary to carry out the polymerisation under conditions such that the functional groups are not de-activated. This may make the curing/polymerisation process more complex, since it is generally necessary to subject the bulk material to relatively extreme conditions to ensure polymerisation throughout the bulk.

In EP-A-0362137 bulk hydrophobic substrates are provided with an integral hydrophilic surface layer by a process in which the surface of the mould is provided with a coating of a coating polymer A having pendant reactive groups, a liquid curable composition comprising a co-reactive compound is used to fill the mould, whereby the curable composition is in contact with the coated portions of the mould surface, and the curable composition is cured to form bulk polymer B under conditions such that the reaction takes place between the said co-reactive compound and the reactive group of polymer A to form a covalent bond linking polymer A to polymer B at least at the interface between the coating and bulk polymer B. The coating polymer A may, for instance, include pendant vinylic groups. These may be reactive with ethylenically unsaturated groups in the curable composition or may react with hydrosilyl groups in a curable silicone composition. Hydrophilicity of the coating polymers is provided by ionic groups, or by poly (ethylene oxide) groups.

In a new method according to the invention providing a coated moulded polymer article the following steps are carried out:

- a) a least a portion of the surface of a mould is provided with a coating of polymer A having pendant reactive groups;
- b) a liquid curable composition comprising a functional compound reactive with the reactive group of polymer A is contacted with the mould whereby the composition is in contact with the portion of the mould surface coated with polymer A;
- c) the curable composition is cured to form bulk polymer B under conditions such that reaction takes place between the functional compound and the reactive group of polymer A to form a covalent bond linking polymer A to polymer B

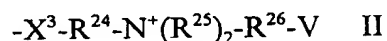
at least at the interface between the said coating and bulk polymer B, the method being characterised in that polymer A comprises zwitterionic groups X.

In the polymer A, the zwitterionic groups X each include an anionic group as well as a cationic group. Preferably the groups X are pendant groups, that is which are pendant from the backbone of the polymer. In group X, the atom bearing the cationic charge and the atom bearing the anionic charge are generally separated by 2 to 12 atoms, preferably 2 to 8 atoms, more preferably 3 to 6 atoms, generally at least 2 carbon atoms.

Preferably the cationic group in zwitterionic group X is an amine group, preferably a tertiary amine or, more preferably, a quaternary ammonium group. The anionic group in X may be a carboxylate, sulphate, sulphonate, phosphonate, or more preferably, phosphate group. Preferably the zwitterionic group has a single monovalently charged anionic moiety and a single monovalently charged cationic moiety. A phosphate group is preferably in the form of diester.

Preferably, in a pendant group X, the anion is closer to the polymer backbone than the cation.

Alternatively group X may be a betaine group (ie in which the cation is closer to the backbone), for instance a sulpho-, carboxy- or phospho-betaine. A betaine group should have no overall charge and is preferably therefore a carboxy- or sulpho-betaine. If it is a phosphobetaine the phosphate terminal group must be a diester, i.e., be esterified with an alcohol. Such groups may be represented by the general formula II



25

in which X^3 is a valence bond, -O-, -S- or -NH-, preferably -O-;

V is a carboxylate, sulphonate or phosphate (diester-monovalently charged) anion;

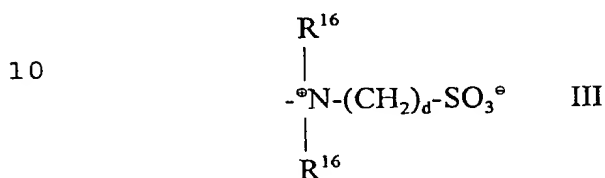
R^{24} is a valence bond (together with X^3) or alkylene -C(O)alkylene- or -C(O)NHalkylene preferably alkylene and preferably containing from 1 to 6 carbon atoms in the alkylene chain;

30

the groups R^{25} are the same or different and each is hydrogen or alkyl of 1 to 4 carbon atoms or the groups R^{25} together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form a heterocyclic ring of 5 to 7 atoms; and

R^{26} is alkylene of 1 to 20, preferably 1 to 10, more preferably 1 to 6 carbon atoms provided that when V is a sulphonate anion, R^{26} is alkylene of 6 or more carbon atoms.

One preferred sulphobetaine monomer has the formula III

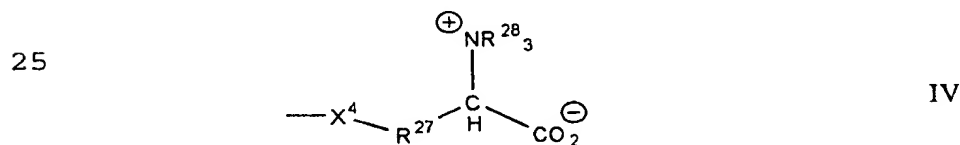


where the groups R^{16} are the same or different and each is hydrogen or C_{1-4} alkyl and d is from 2 to 4.

Preferably the groups R^{16} are the same. It is also preferable that at least one of the groups R^{16} is methyl, and more preferable that the groups R^{16} are both methyl.

Preferably d is 2 or 3, more preferably 3.

Alternatively the group X may be an amino acid moiety in which the alpha carbon atom (to which an amine group and the carboxylic acid group are attached) is joined through a linker group to the backbone of polymer A. Such groups may be represented by the general formula IV



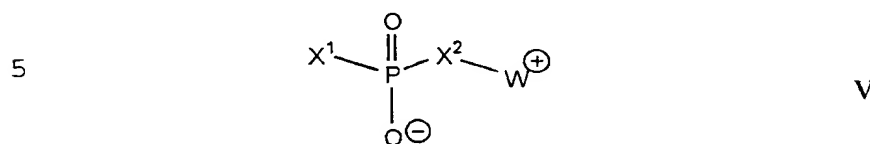
in which X^4 is a valence bond, -O-, -S- or -NH-, preferably -O-,

R^{27} is a valence bond (optionally together with X^4) or alkylene, -C(O)alkylene- or -C(O)NHalkylene, preferably alkylene and preferably containing from 1 to 6 carbon atoms; and

the groups R^{28} are the same or different and each is hydrogen or alkyl of 1 to 4 carbon atoms, preferably methyl, or two of the groups R^{28} , together with the nitrogen to which they are attached, form a heterocyclic ring of from 5 to 7 atoms, or the three

group R²⁸ together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a fused ring structure containing from 5 to 7 atoms in each ring.

X is preferably of formula V



10 in which the moieties X¹ and X², which are the same or different, are -O-, -S-, -NH- or a valence bond, preferably -O-, and W⁺ is a group comprising an ammonium, phosphonium or sulphonium cationic group and a group linking the anionic and cationic moieties which is preferably a C₁₋₁₂-alkylene group.

Preferably W contains as cationic group an ammonium group, more preferably a quaternary ammonium group.

15 The group W⁺ may for example be a group of formula -W¹-N⁺R²³₃, -W¹-P⁺R^{23a}₃, -W¹-S⁺R^{23a}₂ or -W¹-Het⁺ in which:

20 W¹ is alkylene of 1 or more, preferably 2-6 carbon atoms optionally containing one or more ethylenically unsaturated double or triple bonds, disubstituted-aryl, alkylene aryl, aryl alkylene, or alkylene aryl alkylene, disubstituted cycloalkyl, alkylene cycloalkyl, cycloalkyl alkylene or alkylene cycloalkyl alkylene, which group W¹ optionally contains one or more fluorine substituents and/or one or more functional groups; and

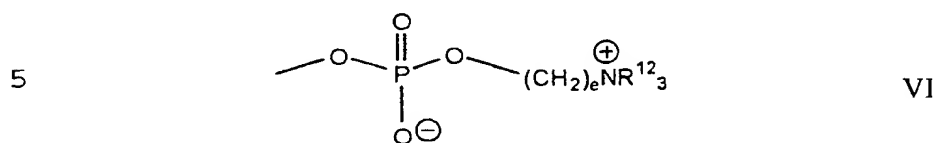
25 either the groups R²³ are the same or different and each is hydrogen or alkyl of 1 to 4 carbon atoms, preferably methyl, or aryl, such as phenyl or two of the groups R²³ together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a heterocyclic ring containing from 5 to 7 atoms or the three groups R²³ together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a fused ring structure containing from 5 to 7 atoms in each ring, and optionally one or more of the groups R²³ is substituted by a hydrophilic functional group, and

30 the groups R^{23a} are the same or different and each is R²³ or a group OR²³, where R²³ is as defined above; or

Het is an aromatic nitrogen-, phosphorus- or sulphur-, preferably nitrogen-, containing ring, for example pyridine.

Preferably W^1 is a straight-chain alkylene group, most preferably 1,2-ethylene.

Preferred groups X of the formula V are groups of formula VI:



10 where the groups R^{12} are the same or different and each is hydrogen or C_{1-4} alkyl, and e is from 1 to 4.

Preferably the groups R^{12} are the same. It is also preferable that at least one of the groups R^{12} is methyl, and more preferable that the groups R^{12} are all methyl.

Preferably e is 2 or 3, more preferably 2.

15 Alternatively the ammonium phosphate ester group VI may be replaced by a glycerol derivative of the formula VB, VC or VD defined in our earlier publication no WO-A-93/01221.

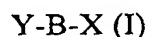
It is possible that polymer A may be formed *in situ* as a coating on the mould surface. In this case, monomers suitable for forming polymer A are coated, optionally
20 in a liquid vehicle, onto the mould surface and subjected to polymerisation conditions suitable for forming polymer A. Preferably, however, the polymer is pre-formed and coated from a coating composition comprising preformed polymer A onto the mould surface. It is preferred for the polymer to be formed from monomers including a comonomer having a reactive group and a zwitterionic monomer having a zwitterionic
25 group. The polymer formed by copolymerising monomers including a reactive comonomer and the zwitterionic monomer will consequently have both zwitterionic groups and reactive groups. An alternative, less preferred method of producing pre-formed polymer, is to introduce the reactive groups and/or the zwitterionic groups after polymerisation of monomers from a pre-cursor.

30 The coating polymer may be of any suitable type, for instance any of the types used in EP-A-0362137. The polymer may be an addition or a condensation polymer. Suitable copolymers are polyvinyl alcohol based materials, carbohydrate based

polymers such as cellulose and cellulose derivatives, polyesters, polyurethanes, or even silicone polymers.

Most preferably polymer A is formed from the addition polymerisation of ethylenically unsaturated monomers. Most preferably, the polymer is formed from monomers including:

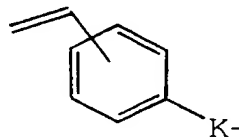
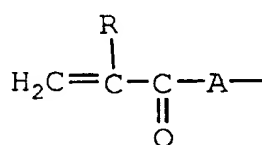
a) a zwitterionic monomer of the general formula I



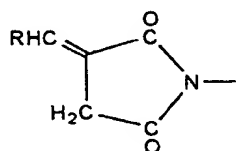
wherein B is a straight or branched alkylene, oxaalkylene or oligo-oxaalkylene chain optionally containing one or more fluorine atoms up to and including perfluorinated chains or, if X or Y contains a terminal carbon atom bonded to B, a valence bond;

X is the zwitterionic group and

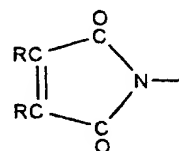
Y is an ethylenically unsaturated polymerisable group selected from



$CH_2=C(R)-CH_2-O-$, $CH_2=C(R)-CH_2 OC(O)-$, $CH_2=C(R)OC(O)-$, $CH_2=C(R)-O-$,
 $CH_2=C(R)CH_2OC(O)N(R^1)-$, $R^{30}OOCRC=C(R)O-$, $RCH=CHC(O)O-$,
 $RCH=C(COOR^{30})CH_2-C(O)-O-$,



and



wherein:

R is hydrogen or a C_1-C_4 alkyl group;

R^{30} is hydrogen or a C_{1-4} alkyl group; or BX

A is $-O-$ or $-NR^1-$; R^1 is hydrogen or a C_1-C_4 alkyl group or R^1 is $-B-X$ where

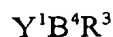
B and X are as defined above; and

K is a group $-(CH_2)_pOC(O)-$, $-(CH_2)_pC(O)O-$,
 $-(CH_2)_pOC(O)O-$, $-(CH_2)_pNR^2-$, $-(CH_2)_pNR^2C(O)-$,
 $-(CH_2)_pC(O)NR^2-$, $-(CH_2)_pNR^2C(O)O-$, $-(CH_2)_pOC(O)NR^2-$,

$-(CH_2)_pNR^2C(O)NR^2-$, (in which the groups R^2 are the same or different) $-(CH_2)_pO-$,
 $-(CH_2)_pSO_3-$, or, optionally in combination with B, a valence bond and p is from 1 to
 12 and R^2 is hydrogen or a C_1 - C_4 alkyl group and

b) a reactive monomer of the formula VII

5



VII

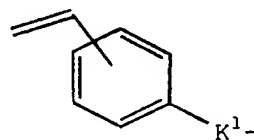
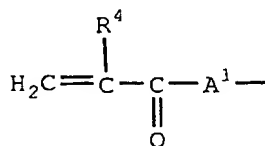
wherein

B^4 is a straight or branched alkylene, oxaalkylene or oligo-oxaalkylene chain
 optionally containing one or more fluorine atoms up to and including perfluorinated
 chains, or a valence bond;

10

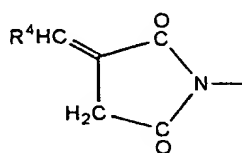
Y^1 is an ethylenically unsaturated polymerisable group selected from

15

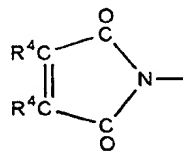


$CH_2=C(R^4)-CH_2-O-$, $CH_2=C(R^4)-CH_2OC(O)-$, $CH_2=C(R^4)OC(O)-$, $CH_2=C(R^4)-O-$,
 $CH_2=C(R^4)CH_2OC(O)N(R^5)-$, $R^{31}OOC CR^4=CR^4C(O)-O-$, $R^4H=CHC(O)-O-$,
 $R^4H=C(COOR^{31})CH_2C(O)O-$

20



and



25

where R^4 is hydrogen or C_1 - C_4 alkyl;

R^{31} is hydrogen, a C_{1-4} -alkyl group;

A^1 is $-O-$ or $-NR^5-$; R^5 is hydrogen or a C_1 - C_4 alkyl group or R^5 is a group Q;

30

K^1 is a group $-(CH_2)_lOC(O)-$, $-(CH)_lC(O)O-$,

$-(CH_2)_lOC(O)O-$, $-(CH_2)_lNR^6-$, $-(CH_2)_lNR^6C(O)-$,

$-(CH_2)_lC(O)NR^6-$, $-(CH_2)_lNR^6C(O)O-$, $-(CH_2)_lOC(O)NR^6-$, $-(CH_2)_lNR^6C(O)NR^6-$ (in
 which the groups R^6 are the same or different), $-(CH_2)_lO-$, $-(CH_2)_lSO_3-$, a valence
 bond and l is from 1 to 12 and R^6 is hydrogen or a C_1 - C_4 alkyl group;

and R^3 is the said reactive group or a precursor of the reactive group of polymer A.

Group R^3 is selected so as to be directly reactive with the functional group in the functional compound in the curable composition during the curing step.

5 Alternatively it is a precursor thereof which may be derivatised to form a directly reactive group. The group R^3 is preferably a reactive group selected from the group consisting of ethylenically and acetylenically unsaturated group containing radicals; aldehyde groups; silane and siloxane groups containing one or more substituents selected from halogen atoms and C_{1-4} -alkoxy groups; hydroxyl; amino; carboxyl;
 10 epoxy; $-CHOHCH_2Hal$ (in which Hal is selected from chlorine, bromine and iodine atoms); succinimido; tosylate; triflate; imidazole carbonyl amino; optionally substituted triazine groups; acetoxy; mesylate; carbonyl di(cyclo)alkyl carbodiimidoyl; isocyanate, acetoacetoxy; and oximino. Most preferably R^3 comprises an ethylenically or acetylenically unsaturated group. Most preferably R^3 is a group
 15 $CH_2=CH-$.

In the reactive monomer, Y^1 is preferably an acrylic type group, that is the first member of the list of ethylenically unsaturated groups. In such a group R^4 is preferably selected from hydrogen, methyl and ethyl, and is most preferably methyl. A^1 is generally an oxygen atom, that is the compound is an acrylic ester.

20 B^4 is preferably a straight alkylene group, preferably a $(CH_2)_{1-6}$, most preferably a group CH_2 . Where the preferred group R^3 is $CH_2=CH-$, and B^4 is CH_2 , A^1 is an oxygen atom and R^4 is hydrogen or methyl, the compound is allylacrylate or allylmethacrylate.

In the zwitterionic monomer of the general formula I, B is preferably a C_{1-4}
 25 alkylene, preferably ethylene, a valence bond or a straight or branched alkylene, preferably of the formula $-(CR^{13})_m-$, wherein the groups $-(CR^{13})_2-$ are the same or different and in each group $-(CR^{13})_2-$ the groups R^{13} are the same or different and each group R^{13} is hydrogen or C_{1-4} alkyl, preferably hydrogen, and m is from 1 to 12, preferably 1 to 6, or B is an oxaalkylene groups such as alkoxyalkyl having 1 to 6
 30 carbon atoms in each alkyl moiety, more preferably $-CH_2O(CH_2)_4-$; or

an oligo-oxaalkylene group of formula $-[(CR^{14})_2O]_p-$ where the groups $-(CR^{14})_2-$ are the same or different and in each group $-(CR^{14})_2-$ the groups R^{14} are the

same or different and each group R^{14} is hydrogen or C_{1-4} alkyl, preferably hydrogen, and n is 1 to 6, preferably 2 or 3, and p is from 1 to 12, preferably 1 to 6. Preferably B is a group $(CH_2)_{1-2}$.

5 In the zwitterionic monomer, the group Y is preferably an acrylic type group, in which R is hydrogen, methyl or ethyl, most preferably methyl. A is preferably an oxygen atom, so that the compound is an (alk) acrylate compound.

Where polymer A is of the preferred type, that is formed from ethylenically unsaturated monomers, usually by radical polymerisation, and the monomers include a reactive monomer in which reactive group R^3 is or comprises an ethylenically
10 unsaturated group, polymerisation of the monomers must be carried out under conditions such that the reactive group R^3 does not take part to a significant extent in addition polymerisation. The type of group R^3 must therefore be different to the ethylenically unsaturated group in Y . This allows polymers having controlled characteristics with a pre-determined level of reactive groups R^3 , for instance which
15 can be separated, purified and analysed before being used to coat the mould in the first step of the present process. This provides advantages over the use of a pre-polymer, for instance formed by incomplete polymerisation of ethylenically unsaturated comonomers including di- or higher-functional ethylenically unsaturated monomers in which all of the ethylenic groups are identical to one another. Partially
20 cured polymers formed from such polyfunctional ethylenically unsaturated monomers have been used to provide reactive coatings for moulds in which curable liquid compositions are moulded in EP-A-0207640 and US-A-4544572.

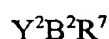
In the present process, the curable composition is generally subject to curing conditions in which polymerisation takes place of liquid monomer or pre-polymer.
25 Alternatively curing may comprise a thermosetting process, for instance in which intermolecular or intramolecular crosslinking of a curable polymer takes place. The functional compound should be curable component which cures to become incorporated into polymer B . Functional groups in the functional compound may be the same groups as participate in the curing reaction to form polymer B . For instance,
30 where the curing involves condensation between dissimilar groups, such as isocyanate or carboxylic and hydroxyl or amine groups, the reactive group on polymer A may be the same as functional groups in the compounds forming the curable composition, that

is either a carboxylic acid or activated derivatives thereof, an isocyanate, or a hydroxyl or an amine group.

Where the curable composition includes ethylenically unsaturated, usually radical polymerisable, monomers, the reactive group in polymer A may be a co-polymerisable ethylenically unsaturated group, or alternatively may be a radical forming group, which may act as an initiation site for graft co-polymerisation, or act as a chain transfer agent allowing covalent bonding to a pre-formed chain formed by polymerisation of monomers in the curable composition.

In one particular embodiment of the invention, the curable composition comprises ethylenically unsaturated monomers including functional monomer having a functional group as defined above.

The functional monomer has general formula VIII:

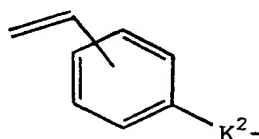
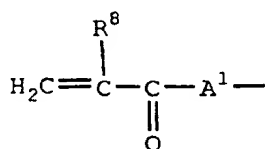


VIII

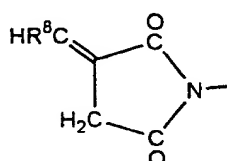
wherein

B^2 is a straight or branched alkylene, oxaalkylene or oligo-oxaalkylene chain optionally containing one or more fluorine atoms up to and including perfluorinated chains, optionally including an alkylene-sulphonamido group, linker or a siloxane group, or B^2 is a valence bond;

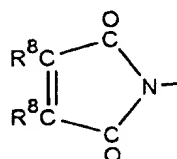
Y^2 is an ethylenically unsaturated polymerisable group selected from



$CH_2=C(R^8)-CH_2-O-$, $CH_2=C(R^8)-CH_2OC(O)-$, $CH_2=C(R^8)OC(O)-$, $CH_2=C(R^8)-O-$, $CH_2=C(R^8)CH_2OC(O)N(R^9)-$, $R^{10}OCCCR^8=CR^8C(O)-O-$, $R^8H = CHC(O)-O-$, $R^8H = C(COOR^{10})CH_2C(O)O-$



and



where R^8 is hydrogen or C_1 - C_4 alkyl;

R^{10} is hydrogen, a C_{1-4} -alkyl group or a group B^2R^7 ;

A^1 is -O- or $-NR^9$; R^9 is hydrogen or a C_1 - C_4 alkyl group or R is a group B^2

5 R^7 ;

K^2 is a group $-(CH_2)_kOC(O)-$, $-(CH)_kC(O)O-$,

$-(CH_2)_kOC(O)O-$, $-(CH_2)_kNR^{11}-$, $-(CH_2)_kNR^{11}C(O)-$,

$-(CH_2)_kOC(O)O-$, $-(CH_2)_kNR^{11}-$, $-(CH_2)_kNR^{11}C(O)-$,

$-(CH_2)_kC(O)NR^{11}-$, $-(CH_2)_kNR^{11}C(O)O-$, $-(CH_2)_kOC(O)NR^{11}-$,

10 $-(CH_2)_kNR^{11}C(O)NR^{11}-$ (in which the groups R^{11} are the same or different),

$-(CH_2)_kO-$, $-(CH_2)_kSO_3-$, a valence bond and k is from 1 to 12 and R^{11} is hydrogen or a C_1 - C_4 alkyl group;

R^7 is a functional group which reacts with the reactive group of polymer A or, where the reactive group of polymer A is an ethylenically unsaturated group, R^7 is
15 hydrogen, C_{1-24} alkyl, C_{1-24} hydroxyalkyl, C_{1-24} fluoroalkyl, C_{2-4} alkoxy(C_{2-24})alkyl, a siloxane group $(SiR^{19})_2(OSiR^{19})_qR^{19}$ in which each R^{19} is a C_{1-12} -alkyl group or a trialkylsiloxy group in which each alkyl has 1 to 12 carbon atoms, and q is 0 to 49, or a group of formula Y^2 .

Where R^7 is a functional group, it is preferably selected from the group
20 consisting of ethylenically and acetylenically unsaturated group containing radicals; aldehyde groups; silane and siloxane groups containing one or more substituents selected from halogen atoms and C_{1-4} -alkoxy groups; hydroxyl; amino; carboxyl; epoxy; $-CHOHCH_2Hal$ (in which Hal is selected from chlorine, bromine and iodine atoms); succinimido; tosylate; triflate; imidazole carbonyl amino; optionally
25 substituted triazine groups; acetoxy; mesylate; carbonyl di(cyclo)alkyl carbodiimidoyl; isocyanate; acetoacetoxy and oximino.

The curable composition may further contain di-, tri- or poly-unsaturated crosslinking monomers which are copolymerisable with the other components of the composition. For instance, such crosslinking monomers have two or more similar
30 ethylenically unsaturated groups. Examples are methylene bisacrylamide, ethylene glycoldimethacrylate, siloxane dimethacrylate, such as poly(dimethylsiloxane)

dimethacrylate, poly(ethyleneglycol)dimethacrylate, glycerol di- or tri-methacrylate, or pentaerythritol di-, tri- or tetra-methacrylate.

Generally polymer A as well as the curable composition comprise diluent comonomers. In each case, the diluent comonomers may be used to give the polymer
 5 desired physical and mechanical properties. For both polymer A and the curable composition formed of ethylenically unsaturated monomers, particular examples of diluent comonomers include alkyl(alk)acrylates preferably containing 1 to 24 carbon atoms in the alkyl group of the ester moiety, such as methyl methacrylate or dodecyl methacrylate; dialkylamino alkyl(alk)-acrylates and -acrylamides preferably containing
 10 1 to 4 carbon atoms in each alkyl moiety of the amine and 1 to 4 carbon atoms in the alkylene chain and/or quaternary derivatives thereof, e.g. 2-(dimethylamino)ethyl (alk)acrylate; N-alkyl (alk)acrylamides and N,N-dialkyl(alk)acrylamides preferably containing 1 to 4 carbon atoms in the or each N-alkyl group; hydroxyalkyl (alk)-acrylates and -acrylamides preferably containing from 1 to 4 carbon atoms in the
 15 hydroxyalkyl moiety, e.g. a 2-hydroxyethyl (alk)acrylate, glycerylmonomethacrylate or polyethyleneglycol monomethacrylate; or a vinyl monomer such as an N-vinyl lactam, preferably containing from 5 to 7 atoms in the lactam ring, for instance vinyl pyrrolidone; (meth)acrylamide; (meth)acrylonitrile; ethylenically unsaturated acids, and anhydrides, such as (alk)acrylic, maleic, and fumaric acids and monoesters of the
 20 dibasic acids; styrene or a styrene derivative which for example is substituted on the phenyl ring by one or more alkyl groups containing from 1 to 6, preferably 1 to 4, carbon atoms, and/or by one or more halogen, such as fluorine atoms, e.g. (pentafluorophenyl)styrene. Preferably the diluent is non-ionic.

Diluent comonomers in polymer A are useful for controlling the surface
 25 activity of the polymer and hence its ability to coat a mould surface. Suitable diluent comonomers for providing a hydrophobic polymer A are C_{4-24} -alkyl-(alk)acrylates and -(alk)acrylamides, C_{1-24} -fluoroalkyl-(alk)acrylates and -(alk)acrylamides, and siloxane substituted (alk)acrylates and -(alk)acrylamides eg having siloxane groups of the formula $(CR^{18})_r(SiR^{17})_q(OSiR^{17})_qR^{17}$ where the or each R^{18} is hydrogen or C_{1-4} alkyl (preferably hydrogen), r is 0 to 6, each R^{17} is independently selected from C_{1-12} alkyl
 30 and trialkylsiloxy groups in which the alkyl groups have 1 to 12, preferably, carbon atom, (preferably all groups R^{17} are methyl) and q is 0-49. Hydrophobic diluents

especially fluoroalkyl or siloxane group containing monomers may confer improved adsorption properties for use with hydrophobic mould surfaces.

Other suitable diluent comonomers include polyhydroxyl, for example sugar, (alk)acrylates and (alk)acrylamides in which the alkyl group contains from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, e.g. sugar acrylates, methacrylates, ethacrylates, acrylamides, methacrylamides and ethacrylamides. Suitable sugars include glucose and sorbitol. Particularly suitable diluent comonomers include methacryloyl glucose or sorbitol methacrylate.

Further diluents which may be mentioned specifically include polymerisable alkenes, preferably of 2-4 carbon atoms, eg. ethylene, dienes such as butadiene, alkylene anhydrides such as maleic anhydride and cyano-substituted alkylenes, such as acrylonitrile.

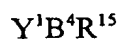
Other suitable monomers which may be included in polymer A or, more preferably, the curable composition, are acrylic functional siloxanes eg mono- or difunctional siloxanes. Acrylic functional silanes in the curable composition are usually present in admixture with acrylic diluent comonomers described above.

In another embodiment of the present process, the curable composition forms a polysiloxane polymer. The curable composition may be formed of liquid pre-polymer, for instance hydrosilyl groups which react with silicone vinyl groups to form crosslinks in the presence of catalyst such as a platinum compound. Such pre-polymers may be provided with functional groups which react with the reactive groups of the polymer A during the curing reaction. It is most preferred for the reactive groups of polymer A to be ethylenically unsaturated groups and for these to react with hydrosilyl groups during the curing (crosslinking).

Curing of siloxane pre-polymers (eg approximately equivalent amounts of hydrosilyl group-containing polysiloxane and of vinyl substituted polysiloxane known as two-part silicones) may be conducted in the presence of a suitable catalyst for the curing reaction and/or for the reaction between the functional group and the reactive group. Suitable catalysts are, for instance platinum complexes, organotin compounds, acids and bases, the selection being determined by the curing reaction which takes place.

For this embodiment, a process is achieved which allows a highly hydrophobic bulk polymer to be provided with a surface with readily tailorable characteristics, such as of highly hydrophilic nature. Polysiloxane bulk polymers are of particular utility in formation of articles which are desired to have high oxygen, or other gas, permeability. Such materials are, for instance, used in corneal refractive devices, especially contact lenses, or in pre-corneal devices such as intraocular lenses or intraocular contact lenses (phakic intraocular lenses).

It is believed that the present inventors, have for the first time, provided a process of the type described in EP-A-0362137, in which the reactive coating polymer A' coated onto the mould surface, is formed by the copolymerisation of ethylenically unsaturated monomers including dual ethylenically unsaturated monomer of the general formula IX:



IX

wherein Y^1 and B^4 are as defined for the compound of the general formula VII above, and R^{15} is an ethylenically unsaturated organic group.

As described above in relation to compounds of the general formula VII, ethylenically unsaturated groups R^{15} (corresponding to groups R^3 in the compounds of the formula VII), comprise a group which may not be subject to polymerisation in the polymerisation reaction of ethylenically unsaturated group Y in the polymerisation reaction to form the polymer.

In this aspect of the invention, therefore, there is provided a process of the general type set out in the preamble to claim 16, and is characterised in that polymer A' is formed from ethylenically unsaturated monomers including monomer of the general formula IV, in which Y^1 and B^4 are as defined above in relation to compounds of the general formula II, and R^{15} is an ethylenically unsaturated group, provided that R^{15} is not the same as Y^1 .

In this aspect of the invention, polymer A' need not include zwitterionic groups. Preferably however it does include such groups, for instance introduced into the polymer through inclusion of zwitterionic monomers eg of the general formula I with the ethylenically unsaturated monomers IX.

In this second aspect of the invention, bulk polymer B may be formed from ethylenically unsaturated monomers or, preferably, may be a polysiloxane product, as described above in relation to the first aspect of the invention.

The group R^{15} is preferably selected from preferred groups R^3 which are
5 unsaturated as described above, more preferably is a group $CH_2=CH-$. Preferred monomers of the general formula IX are allylmethacrylate and allylacrylate.

In both aspects of the invention, a polymer coated onto the mould, may be partially reacted prior to addition of the liquid curable composition, for instance, to cross-link the polymer through reaction of a portion of reactive groups, provided
10 adequate reactive groups in the partially reacted polymer, which forms polymer A or A', are available for reacting in the curing step.

Both polymer A and polymer A' may contain pre-cross-linkable groups, for instance introduced by including pre-cross-linkable monomer in the starting formulation. Such monomers contain a cross-linkable group, which is a different
15 group to the reactive group and which is capable of forming intermolecular crosslinks, for instance after coating the precursor of polymer A onto the mould surface. In one embodiment such intermolecular cross-linking should take place under conditions which do not result in simultaneous reaction of the reactive groups of the polymer which would otherwise deactivate the polymer and prevent its subsequent reaction
20 with the curable composition in the curing reaction. Such cross-linking may stabilise the coating on the mould and/or on the final product. In another embodiment the crosslinkable groups may react to form intermolecular cross-links under the same conditions under which curing to form polymer B takes place, so that curing, reaction of reactive groups in polymer A/A' with functional groups in the curable composition
25 and cross-linking take place simultaneously. The cross-linking may provide additional stability of the coating in the final product, especially in the region of the coating away from the interface between coating polymer A/A' and bulk polymer B. Suitable intermolecular cross-linking groups are cinnamyl, epoxy, $-CHOHCH_2Hal$ (in which Hal is chlorine, bromine or iodine), methylol, silyl groups having 1 to 3 halogen, C_{1-4}
30 alkoxy or C_{2-4} alkanoyloxy substituents, acetylenically unsaturated groups, acetoacetoxy and chloroalkyl sulphone groups, preferably trialkoxysilyl groups.

In the second aspect of the invention, a claimed moulding process preferably involves the preliminary step of forming polymer A'. Where the curable composition used to form polymer B consists of ethylenically unsaturated monomers which are, in the curing reaction, subjected to radical polymerisation, the initial step of forming polymer A' is carried out under polymerisation conditions different to the curing reaction. These conditions may comprise the use of different radical initiators in the two steps, or the use of different temperatures, with a higher temperature in the curing reaction, or the use of actinic radiation in one step and not the other step. Sometimes the use of more concentrated monomers in the curing step may lead to reaction of reactive groups which did not react in the reaction to form polymer A'. The use of monomers in the two steps having different ethylenically unsaturated groups may be adequate to provide differential reactivity of the reactive group. For instance acrylic monomers may be used in one polymer and methacrylic in the other. Preferably the reaction conditions used to make polymer A' involve a peroxide initiator such as bis (4-tert-butylcyclohexyl) peroxidicarbonate, while the curing of a curable composition comprising ethylenically unsaturated monomers may involve UV initiation, actinic radiation and/or a suitable catalyst. The conditions provide polymer A' which is substantially non-crosslinked, and which may be dissolved in a suitable solvent.

The cross-linkable precursor of polymer A having pendant ethylenically unsaturated groups and pendant zwitterionic groups is believed to be a novel polymer. According to a third aspect of the invention, therefore, there is provided a novel polymer formed by polymerising ethylenically unsaturated monomers including

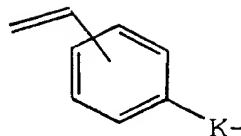
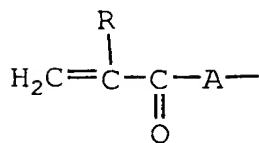
a) a zwitterionic monomer of the general formula I

Y-B-X (I)

wherein B is a straight or branched alkylene, oxaalkylene or oligo-oxaalkylene chain optionally containing one or more fluorine atoms up to and including perfluorinated chains or, if X or Y contains a terminal carbon atom bonded to B, a valence bond;

X is the zwitterionic group and

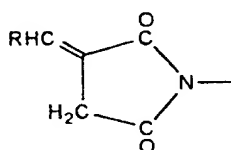
Y is an ethylenically unsaturated polymerisable group selected from



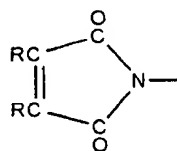
5

$\text{CH}_2=\text{C}(\text{R})-\text{CH}_2-\text{O}-$, $\text{CH}_2=\text{C}(\text{R})-\text{CH}_2\text{OC}(\text{O})-$, $\text{CH}_2=\text{C}(\text{R})\text{OC}(\text{O})-$, $\text{CH}_2=\text{C}(\text{R})-\text{O}-$,
 $\text{CH}_2=\text{C}(\text{R})\text{CH}_2\text{OC}(\text{O})\text{N}(\text{R}^1)-$, $\text{R}^{30}\text{OCC}(\text{R})=\text{C}(\text{R})\text{C}(\text{O})-\text{O}-$, $\text{RCH}=\text{CHC}(\text{O})\text{O}-$,
 $\text{RCH}=\text{C}(\text{COOR}^{30})\text{CH}_2-\text{C}(\text{O})-\text{O}-$,

10



and



wherein:

R is hydrogen or a $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4$ alkyl group;

15

R^{30} is hydrogen or a C_{1-4} alkyl group; or BX

A is $-\text{O}-$ or $-\text{NR}^1-$; R^1 is hydrogen or a $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4$ alkyl group or R^1 is $-\text{B-X}$ where

B and X are as defined above; and

K is a group $-(\text{CH}_2)_p\text{OC}(\text{O})-$, $-(\text{CH}_2)_p\text{C}(\text{O})\text{O}-$,

$-(\text{CH}_2)_p\text{OC}(\text{O})\text{O}-$, $-(\text{CH}_2)_p\text{NR}^2-$, $-(\text{CH}_2)_p\text{NR}^2\text{C}(\text{O})-$,

20

$-(\text{CH}_2)_p\text{C}(\text{O})\text{NR}^2-$, $-(\text{CH}_2)_p\text{NR}^2\text{C}(\text{O})\text{O}-$, $-(\text{CH}_2)_p\text{OC}(\text{O})\text{NR}^2-$,

$-(\text{CH}_2)_p\text{NR}^2\text{C}(\text{O})\text{NR}^2-$, (in which the groups R^2 are the same or different) $-(\text{CH}_2)_p\text{O}-$,

$-(\text{CH}_2)_p\text{SO}_3-$, or, optionally in combination with B, a valence bond and p is from 1 to

12 and R^2 is hydrogen or a $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4$ alkyl group

b) dual ethylenically unsaturated monomer of the general formula IX:

25

$\text{Y}^1\text{B}^4\text{R}^{15}$

IX

wherein Y^1 and B^4 are as defined for the compound of the general formula VII

above, and R^{15} is an ethylenically unsaturated organic group, and

c) cross-linkable monomer of the general formula XI

30

$\text{Y}^3\text{B}^3\text{R}^{20}$

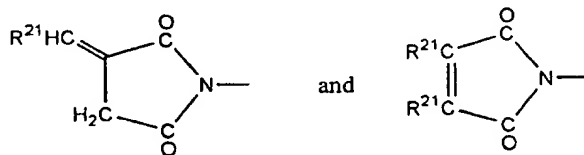
XI

in which B³ is a straight or branched alkylene, oxaalkylene or oligo-oxaalkylene chain optionally containing one or more fluorine atoms up to and including perfluorinated chains, or a valence bond;

Y³ is an ethylenically unsaturated polymerisable group selected from



CH₂=C(R²¹)-CH₂-O-, CH₂=C(R²¹)-CH₂OC(O)-, CH₂=C(R²¹)OC(O)-, CH₂=C(R²¹)-O-,
CH₂=C(R²¹)CH₂OC(O)N(R²²)-, R²⁹OOCCR²¹=CR²¹C(O)-O-, R²¹H=CHC(O)-O-,
R²¹H=C(COOR²⁹)CH₂C(O)O-



where R²¹ is hydrogen or C₁-C₄ alkyl;

R²⁹ is hydrogen, a C₁₋₄-alkyl group;

A⁴ is -O- or -NR²²-;

R²² is hydrogen or a C₁-C₄ alkyl group or R²² is a group B³R¹⁶;

K⁴ is a group -(CH₂)_rOC(O)-, -(CH₂)_rC(O)O-,

25 -(CH₂)_rOC(O)O-, -(CH₂)_rNR²²-, -(CH₂)_rNR²²C(O)-,

-(CH₂)_rC(O)NR²²-, -(CH₂)_rNR²²C(O)O-, -(CH₂)_rOC(O)NR²²-, -(CH₂)_rNR²²C(O)NR²²-

(in which the groups R²² are the same or different), -(CH₂)_rO-, -(CH₂)_rSO₃-, a valence bond and r is from 1 to 12 and

R²⁰ is different to R¹⁵ and is a cross-linkable group.

30 Generally the monomers also include one or more diluent monomer, selected from those described above.

Preferably R²⁰ is selected from cinnamyl, epoxy, -CHOHCH₂Hal (in which Hal is chlorine, bromine or iodine), methylol, silyl groups having 1 to 3 halogen, C₁₋₄ alkoxy or C₂₋₄ alkanoyloxy substituents, acetylenically unsaturated groups, and

acetoacetoxy and chloroalkyl sulphone groups, preferably reactive silyl and epoxy groups.

In the monomer of the general formula XI Y^3 is selected from the same preferred groups as Y , and B^3 is selected from the same preferred groups as B .

5 In this aspect of the invention R^{15} is preferably not the same as Y^1 . Most preferably R^{15} is $CH_2=CH-$.

Preferably Y , Y^1 and Y^3 are the same, most preferably $CH_2C(CH_3)COO-$.

The present invention provides a polymerisation process for producing the novel cross-linkable polymer, a coating composition containing the polymer and a
10 liquid vehicle in which the polymer is dissolved or dispersed, a coating process in which the coating composition is coated onto a substrate and is solidified, optionally including the further step of cross-linking the polymer in the coating, and the product of such a coating process.

The liquid vehicle of the novel coating compositions may be a non-
15 polymerisable solvent, for instance in which the polymer may be dissolved or dispersed. The solvent is, for instance an aqueous and/or organic liquid, preferably comprising an alcohol, glycol and/or an alkane.

The solidification step may involve removal by evaporation of the solvent, for instance under raised temperature and/or reduced pressure. The cross-linking step
20 may be carried out, during or after the solidification step. In this specification solidification includes gelification or any step in which the polymer is immobilised on the substrate.

The substrate coated with the novel polymer may be used in the in-mould process of the first and second aspects of the invention. Alternatively the pendant
25 ethylenic groups R^{15} and/or the cross-linkable group R^{20} may be useful as functional groups to which ligands, such as dyes, U.V. absorbers, pharmaceutically active agents, etc, may be conjugated. Although the novel polymers are generally used in coating processes, they may alternatively be cross-linked in bulk, e.g. in a mould.

For polymer A, polymer A' comprising further zwitterionic comonomer and
30 the novel cross-linkable polymer, the molar ratio of reactive monomer of dual ethylenically unsaturated monomer as the case may be to zwitterionic monomer is

preferably in the range 20:1 to 1:20, most preferably in the range 10:1 to 1:10, more preferably in range 5:1 to 1:5.

Where diluent monomer is included in polymer A or polymer A', the total molar content of diluent may be up to 95%, for instance up to 90%, most preferably up to 75%. Preferably diluent is present, in an amount of at least 10 mole %, more preferably at least 25 mole %.

Pre-cross-linkable monomer may be included in the ethylenically unsaturated monomer in a molar amount in the range 0.01 to 25%, preferably an amount in the range 0.1 to 10%, more preferably 1-10%.

Polymer A, polymer A' and the novel cross-linkable polymer preferably have a molecular weight in the range 10^3 - 10^6 , preferably in the range 2×10^3 to 2×10^5 . Preferably, in the coating composition, they are substantially non-cross-linked (optionally cross-linkable) and hence potentially soluble in a suitable solvent.

Polymer A, polymer A' and/or the cross-linkable polymer may have pendant ligands, for instance pharmaceutically active compounds, dye molecules, UV absorbers etc. Such ligands may be introduced by incorporation of ligand group containing monomers in the polymerisation or may be post reacted on to the polymer before or after coating of the mould, or even after demoulding of the coated moulded product.

The coating composition, formed of preformed polymer A, polymer A' or cross-linkable polymer, generally comprises the polymer in solution or dispersion form in a suitable liquid vehicle. The liquid vehicle may be aqueous or organic solvent based. Suitable solvents may be selected as desired to achieve adequate levels of dissolution of the substantially non-cross-linked polymer. Preferred organic solvents are lower alkanols and glycols. The coating composition may contain other components which are either inert diluents or which improve the coating performance or the reaction between polymer A and the curable composition. For instance the composition may include surfactants, pharmaceutically active compounds, dyes, UV absorbers, pigments, activating agents, catalysts, initiators, chain transfer agent, additional monomer, cross-linking agents, eg having two functional groups for linking to polymer pendant reactive groups, etc. Components which are not permanently bound to polymer A or polymer B may be removed after coating of the mould and

before it is filled with curable composition, or after curing and removal of the moulded product from the mould, for instance by washing with a suitable washing solution.

In the process in which coating composition comprising preformed polymer is coated onto a mould surface, the solvent may or may not be removed prior to contacting the coated surface with curable composition. It may be desirable to remove the solvent in order to form a physically stable coating on the mould surface which is not displaced upon filling of the mould with curable composition. Removal of solvent is generally by evaporation, for instance under reduced pressure.

The curable composition may consist only of components which form part of bulk polymer B. The curable composition should be in liquid form when applied to the mould. Where components of the curable composition, for instance monomers, are liquids at room temperature, any solid components of the curable composition may be dissolved or dispersed in the liquid monomer. Alternatively, or additionally, it may be desirable to include in the curable composition a liquid vehicle, for instance a solvent for dissolving solid components or increasing the compatibility of immiscible liquid components. Alternatively the curable composition may include a solid or liquid diluent, for instance which is included to provide desired physical characteristics after polymerisation. Any non-polymerisable diluent included in the curable composition may be removed after polymerisation, for instance by evaporation or, more usually by washing using a liquid rinse composition.

The curable composition generally comprises components to optimise curing such as initiators, catalysts, chain transfer agents, chain terminating agents, cross-linking agent, such as di- or oligo-unsaturated comonomers, polymerisation inhibitors etc. The curable composition may also contain fillers and/or pigments, especially particulate filler such as titanium dioxide.

For a curable composition based on ethylenically unsaturated monomer the functional monomer is generally present in a molar amount of at least about 1%, preferably at least 5%, up to about 50%, for instance up to 33%. Any crosslinking monomer is generally present in a molar amount in the range 0.01 to 10 mole %, preferably 0.1 to 5.0 mole % for instance 0.5 - 2.0%. Diluent comonomer is suitably

present in an amount of at least 25% molar, preferably at least 50% molar, for instance at least 67%.

The invention may work with most moulds. The mould should preferably be substantially free of surface functional groups which would otherwise form covalent bonds with the reactive groups of polymer A, polymer A' or the cross-linkable polymer. It may be desirable to pretreat a mould to render its surface non-reactive with the coating polymer. For instance a steel surface may be passivated. Alternatively a release layer may be added previously to the mould to prevent contact of an otherwise reactive mould surface with the polymer. The mould may be made of a polymeric material such as polyolefin or polyester.

The cured coated moulded product may be demoulded by any suitable means which disrupts the adhesion between the mould and coating polymer A or A'. Where, as in a preferred aspect polymer A or A' is relatively hydrophilic, demoulding may involve hydration, which leads to a swelling of the coating and disruption of the adhesion to the mould.

Advantages which the approach of the present invention may have over the prior art include:

1) The coating polymer is prepared in a single step and is easy to purify.
2) The composition of the coating copolymer can be tailored over a wide range of hydrophilicity, functionality, etc. The amount of covalent binding group (such as allyl methacrylate) can be varied over a very wide range to control thickness, reactivity, etc.

3) The coating is tightly bound to the surface of the moulded device as there are many potential reactive sites on the coating. This also ensures a homogenous coverage.

4) The coating is reactive to both addition polymerised (Pt cure silicones) and free radical polymerised moulded substrates.

5) The coating polymer film forms readily to provide a smooth, homogenous coating.

The invention is illustrated further in the following examples:

Performance Tests

Granulocyte Activation by Novel Materials

Introduction

5 Granulocyte activation has been defined as a useful measure of enhanced biocompatibility. This protocol measures granulocyte activation in response to stimuli with beads of polymethylmethacrylate (PMMA) and modified materials. It employs an initial purification step to separate out polymorphonuclear leucocytes (PMN's) from venous blood. This mixture of cells is then incubated with potential novel
10 materials for ten minutes in the presence of nitroblue tetrazolium (NBT). This allows the oxidative burst triggered by inflammatory materials to be visualised colourimetrically.

Materials and Suppliers

15	Histopaque-1077	Sigma Cat.No. H8889
	Histopaque-1119	Sigma Cat.No. 1119-1
	PMA (phorbol ester)	Sigma Cat. No. P8139
	NBT reagent	Sigma Cat. No. B1911
	Phenol Red Free Earle's Salt Solution (ESS)	Gibco-BRL Cat.No. 24010-043

Procedure

20 A 20 ml sample of venous blood is contacted with defibrinating beads until a silvery-red clot is attached to the beads. 20 mls ESS is added to the blood. Into a plastic tube 5 ml Histopaque 1119 is placed followed by a layer of 5 ml Histopaque 1077, followed by 10 ml of the diluted blood. The tube is centrifuged to separate the
25 polymorphonuclear leucocytes, which form the lower layer. The PMN's are washed with ESS three times and suspended in 10% foetal calf serum. A cell density of 10^6 cells per ml is produced by dilution. About 100 μ l of the cell suspension is then added to discs of test material, using polymethylmethacrylate (PMMA) discs as a positive control and PMMA coated with a 2:1 copolymer of dodecylmethacrylate: MPC,
30 synthesised and coated as described in WO-A-93/01221, as a reference for adequate biocompatibility performance. The cells are allowed to stand for at least 30 minutes at 37°C, then washed with PBS. Adherent cells are then incubated with NBT solution

(100 μ l) for at least one hour at 37°C. Subsequently the adherent cells are fixed the paraformaldehyde then washed again and viewed under light microscopy. Adhered cells and activated granular sites, which appear blue, are enumerated.

5 Corneal Touch Test

Introduction

Damage to the endothelial layer of the cornea following intraocular lens (IOL) implantation is a serious problem in a minority of cataract operations. Of the lens materials which have been evaluated PMMA has been shown to cause the most
10 traumatic effects. An *in vitro* assay capable of evaluating the effects of contact with novel base materials on the corneal endothelium has thus been developed. This utilises the BCE/D bovine corneal endothelial cell line. BCE/D has an indefinite growth potential and expresses a similar spectrum of function-related enzymes to those found in the normal human cornea.

15 Materials and Suppliers

Modified Eagle's Medium (MEM)	Gibco
Foetal Calf Serum (FCS)	Gibco
New Born Calf Serum (NCS)	Gibco
6 well tissue culture plates (Sterile)	Nunc
20 Bovine Corneal Endothelial Cells	Commercial
Phosphate Buffered Saline (PBS) tablets pH7-7.4	Oxoid

Procedure

Corneal endothelial cells are cultured to confluence in MEM plus 10% FCS and 5% NCS. A 13 mm disc of the material under test is placed gently on the surface
25 of the cells in the plate. After a predetermined period (for instance 5 minutes) the test material is removed, medium which had been removed replaced and the cells allowed to recover for 30 minutes. Cellular damage is scored under a light microscope as compared to the control (non-contacted) monolayer using image analysis.

Again PMMA is used as a positive control, and PMMA coated with 2:1
30 (mole) copolymer of dodecylmethacrylate and 2-methacryloyloxy-2'-trimethylammonium ethyl phosphate inner salt (PMMA-PC) as a reference example.

Determination of rabbit lens epithelial cell adhesion to biomaterialsIntroduction

AGO4677 rabbit lens epithelial cells are a primary cell strain obtained from the Coriell Repository in New York and have been used to determine the number of cells which adhere to the surface of a material. This gives a relative measure of the biocompatibility of a material. The assay measures cell biomass by using extraction of cellular ATP from the attached cells.

Materials

Rabbit Lens Epithelial Cells	NIA AGO4677
Minimal Essential Medium with Glutimax	Gibco 42360-024
Foetal Bovine Serum	Sigma F7524
1X Trypsin-EDTA solution	Sigma T5775

Methodology

Rabbit lens epithelial cells are cultured to confluence or near confluence, detached using trips in and suspended, washed and resuspended at a cell density of around 6000 cells per ml. Samples of the material under test are placed into wells of a plate with 1 ml of the cell suspension and incubated at 37°C for 72 hours. The test materials are removed and washed three times with sterile PBS to remove non-adhered cells. The materials are then placed in wells of a further plate, to which 500 µl of lysis buffer (1% TCA and 2 mM EDTA in PBS) is contacted in the wells for 15 minutes at room temperature and subsequently at -70°C. Extracted ATP is removed from the well and diluted once with tris acetate buffer. ATP monitoring reagent (firefly luciferase) is placed in a luminometer cuvette, and the background emission read. Subsequently 150 µl of the hypotonic extract is added to each well and the constant level of light emission determined. From this the relative ATP levels and consequently the relative levels of epithelial cell attachment, are determined by subtracting the background from the sample values. PMMA is used as a positive control and PMMA-PC as a reference example.

Escherichia coli Adhesion Assay

E. coli Stock Culture NCTC 10964 (10% glycerol in nutrient broth) (PHLS) 20°C

	<i>E. coli</i> Rabbit Polyclonal HRP-conjugate	(DAKO)	4°C
	CLED with Andrades Agar Plates	(Oxoid)	4°C
	Mueller Hinton Broth	(Oxoid)	4°C
	Nutrient Broth	(Oxoid)	4°C
5	Phosphate-citrate Buffer with Urea		
	Peroxide Tablets	(Sigma)	4°C
	O-phenylene Diamine Tablets (10mg/ml) (OPD)	(Sigma)	4°C
	Bovine Serum Albumin	(Sigma)	4°C
	PBS	(BDH)	RT

10 Procedure

E. coli Stock Culture is sub-cultured on agar overnight at 37°C. An isolated colony is inoculated into Mueller Hinton broth and incubated at 37°C for 18 hours. Aliquots of the suspension are then cultured further in nutrient broth in contact with samples under test for 18 hours at 37°C. The samples are then washed four times
 15 with PBS. The washed samples are then contacted with blocking buffer (1% BSA in PBS) to reduce non specific binding, for 1 hour at room temperature. The blocked samples are then washed and contacted with polyclonal rabbit antibody to *E. coli*, conjugated to horseradish peroxidase for 1 hour at room temperature. The samples are washed and then incubated in contact with ortho-phenylene-diamine in PCB for a
 20 predetermined period of time. The absorbences at 450 nm are read and compared to a control.

Assessment of coated lens surfaces and optical properties

The surface characteristics of some of the coated lenses was assessed using the
 25 following techniques:

- a) Optical clarity was assessed by visual inspection to determine whether the coatings impact on the optical properties of the lens.
- b) Dynamic contact angle measurements were made using the Wilhelmy plate method on a Cahn DCA analyser.
- 30 c) Lubricity/blocking was assessed by rubbing the wet lens between finger and thumb and assessing the ease of movement. Over the surface of the lens. A score

of 1 = surface lubricious with no blocking of movement over its surface. A score of 5
= surface not lubricious and tends to block or hinder movement over its surface.

d) The nature of the chemical groups on the surface of the lens was
studied using ESCA (Electron Spectroscopy for Chemical Analysis).

5 All tests were performed after the coated lens had been autoclaved at 121°C in
BBS buffer for 30 minutes, cleaned with Miraflow for 1 minute and then thoroughly
rinsed in Ultra-Pure water to remove any traces of surfactant cleaner.

Example 1: Coating of Platinum Cured Silicones

10 A 4:1 mole copolymer of allyl methacrylate (AM) and 2-(methacryloyloxy
ethyl)-2'-(trimethylammonium)ethyl phosphate inner salt (MPC) was prepared by free
radical polymerisation. A solution of ethanol (34.5g) / ethyl acetate (25.5g) was
placed under nitrogen at 60°C. AM (3.1g) and MPC (30g) in ethanol (45g)/ ethyl
acetate (54ml) and a solution of bis(4-tert-butylcyclohexyl)peroxydicarbonate
15 (0.075g) in ethyl acetate (19.5g) were fed into the solution over four hours and then
the reaction mixture was left for a further hour. A second solution of bis(4-tert-
butylcyclohexyl)peroxydicarbonate (0.015g) in ethanol (6ml)/ethyl acetate (4.5ml)
was then added to the reaction solution and left stirring for 1 hour. The copolymer
was precipitated in acetone and dried. The copolymer was applied to the inner
20 surface of a polyethylene terephthalate (PET) mould liner by dip coating from ethanol
(50 mg/ml polymer solution). A liquid silicone rubber formulation (Applied Silicone
Corporation 40072) was poured into the coated mould. The mould was then closed
and cured at 80°C for 12 hours. The resulting silicone membranes were removed from
the moulds and rinsed in deionised water. The surface of the membranes was more
25 wettable and lubricious than membranes made from the same silicone rubber
formulation using uncoated PET moulds. The static contact angle of the membranes
was evaluated using the sessile drop method and dynamic contact angle (DCA)
measurement using standard DCA test wherein the probe solution is borate buffered
saline, using the Wilhelmy plate method with a speed of 160 µm/s. The lubricity of
30 the membranes was evaluated on a scale of 1-5 (1 represents a non-slippery, blocking
surface, 5 indicates a lubricious, non-blocking surface).

To test the durability of the coating, the membranes were sterilised at 121°C for 30 minutes in a borate buffered saline and then cleaned using a marketed contact lens cleaner (MiraFlow). The wettability of the coated membrane remained high compared to the uncoated membrane and the lubricity was also maintained.

Sample	Surface Properties			
	Wettability (retraction test)	Lubricity (blocking)	Advancing contact angle (°)	Receding contact angle (°)
Uncoated membrane	1	1	88	34
Uncoated membrane, autoclaved & cleaned	1	2	101	61
MPC-allyl methacrylate coated membrane, autoclaved & cleaned	5	5	49	53

Table 1

ESCA (Electron Spectroscopy for Chemical Analysis) was used to confirm the presence of nitrogen and phosphorus which are characteristic of the phosphorylcholine- containing coating. At 7-10 nm analysis depth there was approximately 0.5 atom % nitrogen and phosphorus, consistent with a thin coating.

Samples for biocompatibility tests were prepared by an identical method except that the cure time was 30 minutes at 150°C. The biocompatibility of the coated materials was assessed after autoclaving and cleaning with MiraFlow. The adhesion of rabbit lens epithelial cells, bacteria (*E. coli*) and granulocytes was assessed by in vitro assays. The damage to corneal lens endothelial cells was also assessed *in vitro*. The results are in Figures 1 to 4.

Example 2: Coating of Platinum Cured Silicones

A 2:50:30 copolymer of AM, methylmethacrylate (MMA) and MPC was prepared by free radical polymerisation in a similar fashion to Example 1. The copolymer was purified by precipitation in acetone and dried under vacuum.

The copolymer was applied to the inner surface of a PET mould liner by dip coating from ethanol (polymer concentration 10mg/ml). A liquid silicone rubber formulation (Applied Silicone Corporation 40072) was poured into the coated mould.

The mould was then closed and cured at 150°C for 30 minutes. The resulting silicone membranes were removed from the moulds and rinsed in deionised water. The surface of the membranes was substantially more wettable and lubricious than membranes made from the same silicone rubber formulation using uncoated PET moulds.

To test the durability of the coating, the membranes were sterilised at 121°C for 30 minutes in a borate buffered saline and then cleaned using a marketed contact lens cleaner (MiraFlow). The wettability of the coated membrane remained high compared to the uncoated membrane and the lubricity was maintained.

Wettability and lubricity are shown in Table 2 below.

Sample	Surface Properties	
	Wettability (retraction test)	Lubricity (blocking)
Uncoated membrane	1	1
Uncoated membrane, autoclaved & cleaned	1	2
MPC-MMA-allyl methacrylate coated membrane	5	5
MPC-MMA-allyl methacrylate coated membrane, autoclaved & cleaned	5	5

Table 2

Example 3: Coating of Platinum Cured Silicones, crosslinked Coating

A 20:5:75 mole % AM:3-trimethoxysilylpropylmethacrylate (TMSPM): MPC polymer was synthesised by free radical polymerisation. MPC (21.3686g) was dissolved in 100 ml ethanol. 3-Trimethoxysilylpropyl methacrylate (TMSPM) (1.1976g) and AM (2.4338g) were dissolved in 25 ml ethanol. AIBN (0.05g) was dissolved in 25 ml of ethanol. The monomers were added together in a 3-necked round bottom flask fitted with condenser and nitrogen inlet. A further 100 ml of ethanol was used to wash any excess reagents into the reaction flask. The mixture was de-oxygenated for 30 minutes by bubbling a stream of nitrogen through the mixture while stirring. The initiator was charged to the reaction vessel and the

temperature increased to 65°C. The reaction was performed under a nitrogen atmosphere and allowed to proceed for 72 hours.

Precipitation

The ethanol was removed on a rotary evaporator at 30°C.

5 Dichloromethane/MeOH (70/30) was added to dissolve the solid polymer and the resulting solution added dropwise to 3000 ml acetone which was stirring. The white precipitate was filtered under nitrogen and dried in a vacuum oven at room temperature for 72 hours.

The resulting polymer gave a yield of approximately 70 %.

10 The ¹H NMR spectrum showed the presence of allylic and trimethoxysilyl groups.

The copolymer was applied to the inner surface of a PET mould liner by dip coating from ethanol (polymer concentration 10mg/ml). A liquid silicone rubber formulation (Applied Silicone Corporation 40072) was poured into the coated mould.
15 The mould was then closed and cured at 150°C for 30 minutes wherein the silicone is cured and, it is believed, the coating cross-links. The resulting silicone membranes were removed from the moulds and rinsed in deionised water. The surface of the membranes was more wettable and lubricious than membranes made from the same silicone rubber formulation using uncoated PET moulds.

20 The membranes were sterilised at 121°C for 30 minutes in a borate buffered saline and then cleaned using a marketed contact lens cleaner (MiraFlow). The wettability of the coated membranes (evaluated as for Example 1) remained high compared to the uncoated membrane and the lubricity was maintained.

Example 4: Coating of Platinum Cured Silicones, crosslinked Coating

25 The copolymer synthesised in example 3 was applied to the inner surface of a PET mould liner by dip coating from ethanol (polymer concentration 10mg/ml). A liquid silicone rubber formulation (Applied Silicone Corporation LSR70) was poured into the coated mould. The mould was then closed and cured at 150°C under pressure of 1 tonne for 30 minutes. The resulting silicone membranes were removed from the
30 moulds and rinsed in deionised water. The membranes were sterilised at 121°C for 30 minutes in a phosphate buffered saline. The membranes were highly wettable and lubricious.

Example 5: UV Cure of Acrylic Lenses

A model silicone lens formulation was prepared from 60% w/w of a polydimethylsiloxane end capped with methacrylate functionality (Shin Etsu X-22-164B), (PDMS-MA) 25% w/w of methyl methacrylate and 15% w/w of butyl acrylate. Polypropylene lens moulds (the female moulds producing the convex surface were subjected to an air plasma at 100W for 30s to increase adhesion and wettability) were dip coated from a 2.5% w/w solution of the allyl methacrylate- MPC copolymer from example 1 in ethanol and allowed to dry. They were then filled with the formulation which had 1% by weight of benzoin methyl ether (BME) as initiator.

The moulds were closed and subjected to ultra violet irradiation (Blak Ray long wavelength UV lamp model B100 AP, from UVP Upland CA) for 1 hour. After demoulding, the lenses were extracted in isopropylalcohol and then borate buffered saline. The lenses were highly wettable and lubricious even after autoclaving in borate buffered saline at 121°C followed by cleaning with Miraflo contact lens cleaner.

ESCA analysis at a take off angle of 35° confirmed the presence of N and P characteristic of the PC coating after autoclaving and cleaning (representative data shown in Table 3 below for two areas from one lens). N and P levels were equivalent as expected for the PC headgroup. The values from the two areas shows good uniformity for the coating. There was no significant difference between concave and convex sides.

Sample	Surface	Area	C	O	N	P	Si
coated silicone lens	convex	1	58.4	25	1.2	1.1	14.4
coated silicone lens	convex	2	58.1	24.9	1.1	1.4	14.5
coated silicone lens	concave	1	57.4	25.2	1	1	15.4
coated silicone lens	concave	2	58.7	24.7	1.1	1	14.4

Table 3

Example 6: UV Cure of Acrylic Lenses with Additional Initiator

Example 5 was repeated except that the coating solution for the moulds additionally contained 1% w/w (based on polymer) of BME.

The moulds were closed and subjected to ultra violet irradiation as in example 5 for 1 hour. After demoulding, the lenses were extracted in isopropylalcohol and then borate buffered saline. The lenses were highly wettable and lubricious even after autoclaving in borate buffered saline at 121°C followed by cleaning with Miraflow contact lens cleaner.

ESCA analysis at a take off angle of 35° confirmed the presence of N and P characteristic of the PC coating after autoclaving and cleaning (representative data shown below for one lens).

Sample	Surface	Area	C	O	N	P	Si
coated silicone lens	convex	1	57.3	26.5	2.9	2.9	10.3
coated silicone lens	convex	2	56.4	26.4	3.1	2.8	11.3
coated silicone lens	concave	1	57.3	25.6	1.4	1.4	14.4
coated silicone lens	concave	2	56.4	25.6	1.3	1.5	15.3

Table 4

By comparison the N and P values with those of Example 5, at the same take off angle, this example shows that coating thickness can be increased by addition of additional photoinitiator to the coating. For this type of composition, plasma pretreatment seems to result in a thickness differential.

The sample depth analysed in the ESCA is about 6µm. These results indicate that the coatings are thinner than this since the N and P values for pure coating polymer is around 5%. The thickness of the coating on the convex side is about 4µm and on the concave side about 2µm. Coating thicknesses of 1-10µm on the product are preferred.

Comparative Example 1

A 2:1 (mole) copolymer of MPC and butyl methacrylate was prepared by the following method. MPC (12.125g) was dissolved in ethanol (150ml) then butyl methacrylate (2.91g), and AIBN (0.0289g) were added with stirring. Nitrogen was passed through the solution for 15 minutes then the solution was heated to 60°C for 24 hours, under a positive pressure of nitrogen. On cooling, the copolymer was precipitated in acetone and dried.

The copolymer was applied to PET mould liners by dip coating from a 10mg/ml ethanol solution. A liquid silicone rubber formulation (Applied Silicone Corporation 40072) was poured into the coated mould. The mould was then closed and cured at 80°C for 14 hours. The resulting silicone membranes were removed from the moulds and rinsed in deionised water. The surface of the membranes was more wettable (by the retraction test) than a membrane made from the same silicone rubber formulation using uncoated PET moulds. The wettability was however not as high as for the allyl methacrylate copolymer. The advancing angle of the membrane coated from the butylmethacrylate copolymer was virtually identical to that of the uncoated membrane.

The membranes were sterilised at 121° for 30 minutes in a borate buffered saline and then cleaned using a commercial contact lens cleaner (MiraFlow).

Wettability and lubricity were evaluated as in example 1 and also by Dynamic Contact Angle analysis as for example 1 above. The results are shown in table 5.

Sample	Surface Properties			
	Wettability (retraction test)	Lubricity (blocking)	Advancing contact angle (°)	Receding contact angle (°)
Uncoated membrane	1	1	88	34
Uncoated membrane, autoclaved & cleaned	1	2	101	61
MPC-butylmethacrylate coated membrane	3	1	105	50
MPC-butylmethacrylate coated membrane, autoclaved & cleaned	3	1	105	60

Table 5

ESCA analysis of the sample after autoclaving and cleaning showed the absence of phosphorus and nitrogen.

Example 7: Generic synthetic method for polymer preparations.

5 A solution of the required mixture of monomers was made up, usually in an alcohol or mixture containing alcohol in order to solubilise the MPC. The initiator (Perkadox P6) was made up in a separate solution, usually an acetate ester solvent. Dependent upon the scale (<100g polymer), these solutions could be combined and pumped as a single feed into a monomer starved polymerisation vessel.

10 A 250ml three neck flask was fitted with a mechanical overhead stirrer, condensor, thermometer and nitrogen inlet. The flask was charged with 60ml of an appropriate solvent or combination of solvents and brought to reflux. The monomer/initiator solution was fed into this reaction mixture over a 2-3 hour period. Initiator choice was based on a half-life of 10-60 minutes at the reaction temperature
15 being used. A final polymer concentration of 25% w/v was desirable in order to facilitate the precipitation stage.

After complete addition of monomers, the temperature was held (at 60-63°C) for a further hour and then the mixture spiked with additional initiator to minimise free monomer levels in the final polymer. The temperature was held for a further 2
20 hours before removing the heat and preparing for precipitation.

A 1 litre precipitation vessel was fitted with an overhead stirrer and charged with an initial volume (normally ~15% of the total precipitation solvent) of a 9:1 non-solvent:solvent mixture (usually acetone:alcohol). Into this was pumped the warm polymer solution through an in-line sintered glass filter and simultaneously in an
25 additional feed, further precipitation solvent. After complete addition of polymer solution and non-solvent, the precipitated material was allowed to settle before the supernatant liquor was removed using a vacuum probe. The polymer mass was redissolved in further solvent with slight warming to aid dissolution. The solution was then pumped to a second precipitation vessel and the process repeated. The final
30 polymer was washed with non-solvent, filtered and dried in a vacuum oven for a minimum of 16 hours.

The monomers and their ratios are shown in Table 6.

CM is choline methacrylate

PDMSMM is monomethacryloylated polydimethyl siloxane having a molecular weight of about 2500

5 PEGM monomethoxy polyethylene glycol methacrylate of which the PEG has molecular weight of about 550

FDM is 1,1,2,2(4H) heptafluorodecylmethacrylate

NNDMA is N,N-dimethylacrylamide

BM is butylmethacrylate

10 HPMA is 3-hydroxypropylmethacrylate

IPA is isopropyl alcohol

EtOH is ethanol

EtOAc is ethyl acetate

DM is dodecylmethacrylate and

15 GM is glycidyl methacrylate

Example #	Polymer Formula (wt%)	Reaction Solvent System
7.1	MPC ₉₀ AM ₁₀	EtOH:EtOAc (7:5)
7.2	MPC ₉₅ AM ₅	EtOH:EtOAc (7:5)
7.3	MPC _{97.5} AM _{2.5}	EtOH:EtOAc (7:5)
7.4	MPC ₅₄ MMA ₃₆ AM ₁₀	EtOH:EtOAc (7:5)
7.5	MPC ₅₄ PEGM ₃₆ AM ₁₀	EtOH:EtOAc (7:5)
7.6	MPC ₈₀ TMSPM ₅ AM ₁₅	EtOH:EtOAc (7:5)
7.7	MPC ₇₅ TMSPM ₅ HPMA ₅ AM ₁₅	EtOH:EtOAc (7:5)
7.8	MPC ₃₃ MMA ₅₇ AM ₁₅	EtOH:EtOAc (7:5)
7.9	MPC ₅₅ MMA ₃₅ AM ₁₀	IPA:EtOAc (7:5)
7.10	MPC ₅₅ FDM ₃₅ AM ₁₀	IPA:EtOAc (7:5)
7.11	MPC ₅₅ PDMSMM ₃₅ AM ₁₀	IPA:EtOAc (7:5)
7.12	MPC ₂₅ NNDMA ₅₀ HPMA ₁₅ AM ₁₀	IPA:EtOAc (7:5)
7.13	MPC ₂₅ NNDMA ₃₀ BM ₂₀ HPMA ₁₅ AM ₁₀	IPA:EtOAc (7:5)
7.14	MPC ₂₅ NNDMA ₂₅ BM ₂₀ HPMA ₁₅ TMSPM ₅ AM ₁₀	IPA:EtOAc (7:5)
7.15	MPC ₃₅ NNDMA ₂₀ BM ₂₀ HPMA ₁₅ AM ₁₀	IPA:EtOAc (7:5)
7.16	MPC ₇₅ HPMA ₁₅ AM ₁₀	EtOH:EtOAc (6:1)
7.17	MPC ₂₅ CM ₁₀ NNDMA ₂₀ BM ₂₀ HPMA ₁₅ AM ₁₀	IPA
7.18	CM ₃₅ NNDMA ₂₀ BM ₂₀ HPMA ₁₅ AM ₁₀	EtOH
7.19	MBC ₄₀ DM ₄₀ GM ₁₀ AM ₁₀	IPA:EtOAc (7:5)
7.20	MPC ₅₅ DM ₃₅ AM ₁₀	EtOH:EtOAc(7:5)

Table 6

Examples 7.6, 7.7, 7.14 and 7.19 are examples of novel cross-linkable polymers according to the third aspect of the invention.

Example 8: Coating a silicone hydrogel with higher alkyl methacrylate: allyl methacrylate: MPC terpolymer

Preparation of bulk monomer formulation:

The components in Table 7 below were mixed together and stirred until a clear solution was obtained. The formulation was then de-gassed by bubbling nitrogen through the formulation for 5-10 minutes.

Components	% w/w of monomer
TRIS	8.8
PDMSMM	35.5
NNDMA	30.1
2-Ethyl hexyl acrylate	24.1
Methacrylic Acid	1.5
Total	100
BME	1.0
Hexanol	29.3

Table 7

TRIS is 3-[tris(trimethylsiloxy)silyl] propyl methacrylate

BME is benzoin methylether (initiator)

Preparation of coating solution:

The coating solution was prepared by dissolving the polymer of example 7.20 in ethanol at a concentration of 25mg/ml. The initiator (BME: Benzoin Methyl Ether) was added to the solution at a concentration of 2 %w/w on polymer. The solution was then passed through a 0.2µm filter.

Preparation of coated lens:

Both the male and female parts of the polypropylene contact lens mould were dipped into the polymer coating solution for 2-3 seconds. The moulds were removed and allowed to dry in air for approximately 1 hour.

Approximately 40 µL of bulk monomer formulation was placed into the dried polypropylene contact lens mould. The mould was then closed and sealed. The reaction was performed by exposing the contact lens mould to UV radiation (Black Ray Long Wavelength UV Lamp, Model B100AP from UVP Upland CA) for approximately 1 hour. The moulds were opened using a contact lens de-moulder. The lenses were placed into isopropanol (iPA)/Deionised Water (DI) (70/30) for at least 3 hours. Each lens was then detached from the moulds and placed in DI for 2 hours, the DI water was replaced once for a further 2 hours. The lenses were then placed into vials containing Borate Buffered Solution saline and autoclaved at 121 °C for 30 minutes.

Results

a) The resulting coated lenses were optically clear. The coating did not therefore have any observable effect on the optical properties of the lens.

5 b) From the DCA results it was found that the surface of the lens is much more wettable than an identical uncoated silicone hydrogel. The table below summarises the results from the DCA experiments. The hysteresis is also significantly reduced for the coated lens compared to the uncoated lens. This shows that the IMC process is a suitable method with which to impart a phosphorylcholine-containing coating onto the
10 surface of a silicone hydrogel.

Dynamic Contact Angles Data

Coating	Cycle 1		Cycle 2		Cycle 3		Average		Hysteresis
	Adv	Rec	Adv	Rec	Adv	Rec	Adv	Rec	
Coated	78.72	58.74	67.66	60.25	67.65	60.73	71.34	59.91	11.44
	75.01	55.23	54.05	52.66	50.42	51.55	59.83	53.15	6.68
	60.28	56.28	54.11	58.35	52.83	55.69	55.74	56.77	-1.03
							62.30	56.61	5.69
Uncoated	91.96	54.7	109.51	69.97	108.68	70.62	103.38	65.10	38.29
	116.35	57.35	108.08	58.1	106.68	58.23	110.37	57.89	52.48
	105.32	51.63	79.63	48.99	78.24	49.4	87.73	50.01	37.72
							100.49	57.67	42.83

Table 8

25 c) The surface lubricity of the coated lens was much better than that for the uncoated lens.

Sample	Lubricity (blocking)
Coated lens	1-2
Uncoated lens	5

Table 9

d) ESCA confirmed the presence of nitrogen and phosphorus which are characteristic of the phosphorylcholine-containing coating on the surface of the coated lens.

Area	Carbon	Oxygen	Silicone	Nitrogen	Phosphorous
1	55.6	24	19.8	0.2	0.3
2	57	23.6	17.2	0.4	0.4

Table 10

Example 9 - Silicone hydrogel with fluoroalkyl group-containing polymer

Example 8 was repeated but using the polymer of Example 7.10 in the coating solution in place of the polymer of 7.20

Results

a) The resulting coated lenses were optically clear. The coating did not therefore have any observable effect on the optical properties of the lens.

b) From the DCA results it was found that the surface of the lens is much more wettable than an identical uncoated silicone hydrogel. The table below summarises the results from the DCA experiments. The hysteresis is also significantly reduced for the coated lens compared to the uncoated lens. This shows that the IMC process is a suitable method with which to impart a phosphorylcholine containing coating onto the surface of silicone hydrogel.

Dynamic Contact Angles Data

Coating	Cycle 1		Cycle 2		Cycle 3		Average		HYSTERESIS
	Adv	Rec	Adv	Rec	Adv	Rec	Adv	Rec	
Coated	60.14	42.86	63.28	42.02	62.88	41.82	62.10	42.23	19.87
	54.19	43.72	53.63	38.71	51.38	40.62	53.07	41.02	12.05
	70.89	51.34	68.9	51.88	65.37	50.56	68.39	51.26	17.13
							61.18	44.84	16.35
Uncoated	91.96	54.7	109.51	69.97	108.68	70.62	103.38	65.10	38.29
	116.35	57.35	108.08	58.1	106.68	58.23	110.37	57.89	52.48
	105.32	51.63	79.63	48.99	78.24	49.4	87.73	50.01	37.72
							100.49	57.67	42.83

Table 11

c) The surface lubricity of the coated lens was much better than that for the uncoated lens.

Sample	Lubricity (blocking)
Coated lens	1-2
Uncoated lens	5

Table 12

d) ESCA confirmed the presence of nitrogen and phosphorus which are characteristic of the phosphorylcholine containing coating on the surface of the coated lens.

Area	Carbon	Oxygen	Silicone	Nitrogen	Phosphorous
1	53.2	24.8	21.2	0.3	0.4

Table 13

Example 10 - Silicone hydrogel with hydrophobic silyl group-containing polymer

Example 8 was repeated but using the polymer of example 7.11 in place of the polymer of Example 7.20.

Results

a) The resulting coated lenses were optically clear. The coating did not therefore have any observable effect on the optical properties of the lens.

5 b) From the DCA results it was found that the surface of the lens is much more wettable than an identical uncoated silicone hydrogel. The table below summarises the results from the DCA experiments. The hysteresis is also significantly reduced for the coated lens compared to the uncoated lens. This shows that the IMC process is a suitable method with which to impart a phosphorylcholine-containing coating onto the

10 surface of silicone hydrogel.

Dynamic Contact Angles Data

Coating	Cycle 1		Cycle 2		Cycle 3		Average		HYSTERESIS
	Adv	Rec	Adv	Rec	Adv	Rec	Adv	Rec	
Coated	67.35	59.09	68.47	58.46	66.96	58.14	67.59	58.56	9.03
	74.24	63.81	75.52	62.64	72.4	62.92	74.05	63.12	10.93
	63.32	63.75	66.73	64.06	68.58	64.42	66.21	64.08	2.13
	77.03	61.8	63.81	61.85	65.33	61.86	69.29	61.92	7.36
Uncoated	91.96	54.7	109.51	69.97	108.68	70.62	103.38	65.10	38.29
	116.35	57.35	108.08	58.1	106.68	58.23	110.37	57.89	52.48
	105.32	51.63	79.63	48.99	78.24	49.4	87.73	50.01	37.72
							100.49	57.67	42.83

Table 14

c) The surface lubricity of the coated lens was much better than that for the uncoated lens.

Sample	Lubricity (blocking)
Coated lens	1-2
Uncoated lens	5

Table 15

d) ESCA confirmed the presence of nitrogen and phosphorus which are characteristic of the phosphorylcholine containing coating on the surface of the coated lens.

Area	Carbon	Oxygen	Silicone	Nitrogen	Phosphorous
1	58	25.1	12.5	2.3	2.1
2	56.7	25.2	15.2	1.4	1.4

Table 16

Example 11 - Pretreating lens mould surface

Example 8 was repeated but using the polymer of example 1 in place of polymer of example 7.20. For this example the polypropylene mould pieces were pretreated with plasma for 30s in oxygen at 100w with the gas flow at mark 4 in a Bio-rad RF-plasma barrel-etcher PT7100 before dipping into the coating composition to improve surface wetting. The method was otherwise the same.

Results

a) The resulting coated lenses were optically clear. The coating did not therefore have any observable effect on the optical properties of the lens.

b) From the DCA results it was found that the surface of the lens is much more wettable than an identical uncoated silicone hydrogel. The table below summarises the results from the DCA experiments. The hysteresis is also significantly reduced for the coated lens compared to the uncoated lens. This shows that the IMC process is a suitable method with which to impart a phosphorylcholine-containing coating onto the surface of a silicone hydrogel.

Dynamic Contact Angles Data

Coating	Cycle 1		Cycle 2		Cycle 3		Average		HYSTERESIS
	Adv	Rec	Adv	Rec	Adv	Rec	Adv	Rec	
Yes	64.22	29.52	45.74	34.1	49.81	34.62	53.26	32.75	20.51
	64.25	32.84	63.57	34.12	58.41	30.97	62.08	32.64	29.43
	70.59	56.3	66.9	44.94	66.18	45.08	67.89	48.77	19.12
							61.07	38.05	23.02
Uncoated	91.96	54.7	109.51	69.97	108.68	70.62	103.38	65.10	38.29
	116.35	57.35	108.08	58.1	106.68	58.23	110.37	57.89	52.48
	105.32	51.63	79.63	48.99	78.24	49.4	87.73	50.01	37.72
							100.49	57.67	42.83

Table 17

c) The surface lubricity of the coated lens was much better than that for the uncoated lens.

Sample	Lubricity (blocking)
Coated lens	1
Uncoated lens	5

Table 18

d) ESCA confirmed the presence of nitrogen and phosphorus which are characteristic of the phosphorylcholine containing coating on the surface of the coated lens.

Area	Carbon	Oxygen	Silicone	Nitrogen	Phosphorous
1	59.7	23.4	13.5	2.5	0.9
2	58.7	22.9	15.5	2.5	0.5

Table 19

Example 12: Preparation of a polymer in which the graftable functionality is reacted onto the preformed-polymer.

A polymer of formula MPC:2-(*t*-butyl)aminoethyl methacrylate 75:25 was made according to the general procedure outlined in example 7 in a solvent of isopropylalcohol ethylacetate (4.5:1) using 2,2-azobis(isobutyronitrile) as the initiator at a polymerisation temperature of about 89-90°C. After the polymerisation was complete, the reaction mixture was cooled and *m*-3-isopropenyl- α -dimethylbenzyl isocyanate was added in order to react with all 2°amine groups available on the alkyl amino pendant groups. Complete addition of isocyanate to amine was confirmed by FT-IR. The solution was returned to reflux for 1 hour, then cooled before precipitation.

The polymer has a pendant ethylenically unsaturated group suitable for use in a process similar to that of example 5 or 8, to coat a mould used to polymerise ethylenically unsaturated bulk monomer mixtures.

Example 13 - PC-containing-bulk monomer

Preparation of bulk monomer formulation:

The components in table 20 below were mixed together and stirred until a clear solution was obtained. The formulation was then de-gassed by bubbling nitrogen through the formulation for 5-10 minutes.

Components	% w/w of monomer
HEMA	84.7
EGDMA	0.7
MPC	14.6
MBE	0.4622

Table 20

EGDMA is ethyleneglycol dimethacrylate.

Preparation of coating solution:

The coating solution was prepared by dissolving the coating polymer (Example 1, 7.10 or 7.11) in ethanol at a concentration of 25mg/ml. The initiator (BME: Benzoin Methyl Ether) was added to the solution at a concentration of 2 %w/w on polymer. The solution was then passed through a 0.2 μ m filter.

For the polymer of example 1, both male and female parts of the polypropylene contact lens mould were plasma treated (Conditions: 30 seconds, Oxygen, 100 Watts, Gas Flow =4), prior to coating.

5 The lenses were coated, dried, filled and cured as in example 8 above. The product lenses were then assessed.

Results

a) All the resulting coated lenses were optically clear. The coatings did not therefore have any observable effect on the optical properties of the lenses.

10 b) From the wettability study it was found that the surface of all of the coated lenses were even more wettable (score 1) than an identical uncoated lens (score 3).

Example 14 - pHEMA hydrogel

15 Example 13 was repeated but using as the bulk monomer solution a mixture of 99.34% by weight 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate (HEMA) and 0.66% by weight ethyleneglycoldimethacrylate.

Results

a) The resulting coated lenses were optically clear. The coating did not therefore have any observable effect on the optical properties of the lens.

20 b) From the wettability study it was found that the surface, all three of the coated lenses are more wettable than an identical uncoated lens. The table below summarises the results from the wettability experiments. This shows that the process is a suitable method with which to impart a phosphorylcholine containing coating onto the surface of pHEMA hydrogel.

25

Sample	Score of Break-up time
Un-coated pHEMA lens	3
Example 1 coating	1
Example 7.20 coating	1
30 Example 7.10 coating	1

Table 21

c) The surface lubricity of the coated lens was much better than that for the uncoated lens.

Sample	Lubricity (blocking)
Uncoated pHEMA lens	3
Example 1 coating	1
Example 7.20 coating	1
Example 7.10 coating	1

Table 22

Example 15 - Monomer in coating solution

Example 8 was repeated using the same bulk monomer composition and coating polymer with the difference being that HEMA was added to the coating solution, at a concentration of 30% by weight based upon the polymer weight. Drying of the coating and polymerisation of the bulk proceeded in the same manner.

The product surface and clarity characteristics were assessed and found to be equivalent to those of the product of Example 8. It is assumed that the concentration of phosphorylcholine groups at the surface will be lower by virtue of the incorporation of HEMA, which is assumed to polymerise in the surface coating. However the coating still has desirable characteristics.

Example 16 - Cross-linkable coating polymer

The components in Table 23 below were mixed to make the bulk monomer solution. Polypropylene lens moulds were plasma treated as in Example 11 and then coated with 0.2 μ m filtered 25 mg/ml solution of the coating polymer (MPC:TMSPM:AM 80:5:15 made by a process analogous to that of Example 7.6) in ethanol, containing 2% w/w (based on polymer) BME. The coated moulds were allowed to dry at ambient conditions for about 1 hour. Some of the coated moulds were then placed in a vacuum oven for 2 hours at 80°C to crosslink the trimethoxysilyl groups. The bulk monomer solution was then used to fill the moulds and was cured using the same general technique as Example 8. The surface and optical characteristics product lenses were assessed.

Components	% w/w of monomer
TRIS	57.9
Hema	10.1
NNDma	29.4
Ethylene glycol dimethacrylate	2.6
Total	100
BME	1.1

Table 23

The uncoated lenses were very hydrophobic (wettability score 5). The pre-crosslinked coatings were much more wettable, scoring 2-3. Lubricity was likewise reduced from 5 to 2-3.

Example 17 - Partially curing coating polymer before filling mould with monomer

The components in table 24 were mixed to form the bulk monomer solution. The coating solution consisted of a solution of 50 mg/ml product of Example 1, 1% w/w (based on polymer) BME and a surfactant (S-100, Ciba Vision) at a rate of 2-3 drops per 20 ml (to improve mould surface wetting) in ethanol. The lens moulds were plasma treated as in Example 8 and the dipped into the coating solution. After allowing the coating to dry in air, some of the coated lenses were subjected to a partial curing step by exposure to UV for 15 min, using the same lamp as for the monomer curing. Subsequent filling, curing and lens recovery steps were carried out as in Example 8.

Components	% w/w of monomer
TRIS	57.9
HEMA	10.1
NNDMA	29.4
EGDMA	2.6
Total	100
BME	1.1

Table 24

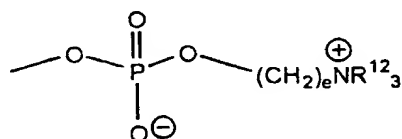
The product lenses of which the coating had been subjected to the partial cure prior to filling the mould with bulk monomer had better shape retention than those on

which no partial curing was carried out. The lubricity and wettability values for the lens was reduced by the partial cure coating from 5 to 1 in each case.

CLAIMS:

1. A method for providing a coated moulded polymer article in which:
 - a) at least a portion of the surface of a mould is provided with a coating of polymer A having pendant reactive groups,
 - 5 b) a liquid curable composition comprising a functional compound reactive with the reactive groups of polymer A is contacted with the mould whereby the composition is in contact with the coated portions of the mould surface, and
 - c) the curable composition is cured to form bulk polymer B under condition such that reaction takes place between the said functional compound and the reactive groups of polymer A to form a covalent bond linking polymer A to polymer B at least at the interface between the coating and bulk polymer B, characterised in that polymer A includes zwitterionic groups X.
2. A method according to claim 1 in which groups X are pendant groups from the backbone of polymer A.
- 15 3. A method according to claim 1 or claim 2 in which in groups X, the atom bearing an anionic charge and the atom bearing a cationic charge are separated by 2 to 12 atoms, preferably 2 to 8, more preferably 2 to 6 atoms.
4. A method according to claim 3, in which the cation is further from the polymer backbone from the anion.
- 20 5. A method according to any preceding claim in which the cationic group is a quaternary ammonium group.
6. A method according to any preceding claim in which the anionic group is a phosphate diester group.
7. A method according to any preceding claim in which X is of formula VI

25



VI

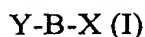
30

where the groups R^{12} are the same or different and each is hydrogen or C_{1-4} alkyl, and e is from 1 to 4.

8. A method according to any preceding claim in which polymer A is formed by radical polymerisation of ethylenically unsaturated monomers.

9. A method according to claim 8, in which the ethylenically unsaturated monomers include:

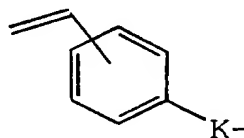
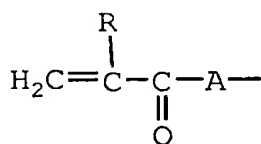
5 a) a zwitterionic monomer of the general formula I



wherein B is a straight or branched alkylene, oxaalkylene or oligo-oxaalkylene chain optionally containing one or more fluorine atoms up to and including perfluorinated chains or, if X or Y contains a terminal carbon atom bonded to B, a valence bond;

10 X is the zwitterionic group and

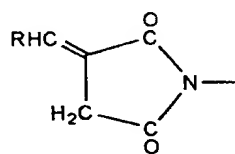
Y is an ethylenically unsaturated polymerisable group selected from



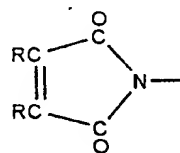
15

$CH_2=C(R)-CH_2-O-$, $CH_2=C(R)-CH_2 OC(O)-$, $CH_2=C(R)OC(O)-$, $CH_2=C(R)-O-$,
 $CH_2=C(R)CH_2OC(O)N(R^1)-$, $R^{30}OCCCR=CRC(O)-O-$, $RCH=CHC(O)O-$,
 $RCH=C(COOR^{30})CH_2-C(O)-O-$,

20



and



25 wherein:

R is hydrogen or a C_1-C_4 alkyl group;

R^{30} is hydrogen or a C_{1-4} alkyl group; or BX

A is $-O-$ or $-NR^1-$; R^1 is hydrogen or a C_1-C_4 alkyl group or R^1 is $-B-X$ where

B and X are as defined above; and

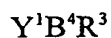
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K is a group $-(CH_2)_pOC(O)-$, $-(CH_2)_pC(O)O-$,
 $-(CH_2)_pOC(O)O-$, $-(CH_2)_pNR^2-$, $-(CH_2)_pNR^2C(O)-$,
 $-(CH_2)_pC(O)NR^2-$, $-(CH_2)_pNR^2C(O)O-$, $-(CH_2)_pOC(O)NR^2-$,

-(CH₂)_pNR²C(O)NR²-, (in which the groups R² are the same or different) -(CH₂)_pO-,
 -(CH₂)_pSO₃ -, or, optionally in combination with B, a valence bond and p is from 1 to
 12 and R² is hydrogen or a C₁-C₄ alkyl group and

b) a reactive functional monomer of the formula II

5



II

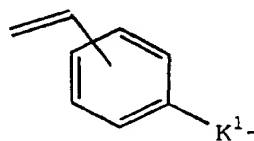
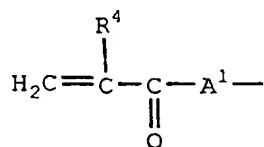
wherein

B⁴ is a straight or branched alkylene, oxaalkylene or oligo-oxaalkylene chain
 optionally containing one or more fluorine atoms up to and including perfluorinated
 chains, or a valence bond;

10

Y¹ is an ethylenically unsaturated polymerisable group selected from

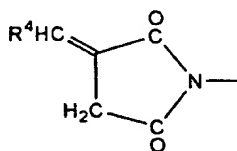
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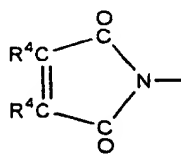
20

CH₂=C(R⁴)-CH₂-O-, CH₂=C(R⁴)-CH₂OC(O)-, CH₂=C(R⁴)OC(O)-, CH₂=C(R⁴)-O-,
 CH₂=C(R⁴)CH₂OC(O)N(R⁵)-, R³¹OCCCR⁴=CR⁴C(O)-O-, R⁴H=CHC(O)-O-,
 R⁴H=C(COOR³¹)CH₂C(O)O-

25



and



where R⁴ is hydrogen or C₁-C₄ alkyl;

R³¹ is hydrogen, a C₁₋₄-alkyl group or a group B⁴R³;

30

A¹ is -O- or -NR⁵-; R⁵ is hydrogen or a C₁-C₄ alkyl group or R⁵ is a group Q;

K¹ is a group -(CH₂)_lOC(O)-, -(CH₂)_lC(O)O-,

-(CH₂)_lOC(O)O-, -(CH₂)_lNR⁶-, -(CH₂)_lNR⁶C(O)-,

-(CH₂)_lC(O)NR⁶-, -(CH₂)_lNR⁶C(O)O-, -(CH₂)_lOC(O)NR⁶-, -(CH₂)_lNR⁶C(O)NR⁶- (in

which the groups R¹⁶ are the same or different), -(CH₂)_lO-, -(CH₂)_lSO₃-, a valence

bond and l is from 1 to 12 and R^6 is hydrogen or a C_1 - C_4 alkyl group;
and R^3 is a reactive group.

10. A method according to claim 9 in which R^3 is selected from the group consisting of ethylenically and acetylenically unsaturated group containing radicals;
5 aldehyde groups; silane and siloxane groups containing one or more substituents selected from halogen atoms and C_{1-4} -alkoxy groups; hydroxyl; amino; carboxyl; epoxy; $-CHOHCH_2Hal$ (in which Hal is selected from chlorine, bromine and iodine atoms); succinimido; tosylate; triflate; imidazole carbonyl amino; optionally substituted triazine groups; acetoxy; mesylate; carbonyl di(cyclo)alkyl carbodiimidoyl;
10 isocyanate, acetoacetoxy; and oximino.

11. A method according to claim 9 or claim 10 in which, in the reactive comonomer, R^3 is an ethylenically unsaturated group, preferably a group $CH_2=CH-$, most preferably in which the reactive comonomer is allyl methacrylate.

12. A method according to claim 11 involving a preliminary step of polymerising
15 ethylenically unsaturated monomers under radical polymerisation conditions to form a substantially non-cross-linked polymer A, under conditions such that ethylenically unsaturated groups R^3 do not polymerise to any significant degree.

13. A method according to any preceding claim in which the curable composition comprises ethylenically unsaturated monomers and/or pre-polymer and the curing
20 involves radical polymerisation of the ethylenically unsaturated polymerisable groups.

14. A method according to claim 13 in which the curable composition comprises ethylenically unsaturated monomers and in which the curing conditions to polymerise the ethylenically unsaturated monomers of the curable composition is carried out under different conditions to the conditions used for producing polymer A.

15. A method according to any of claims 1 to 12 in which the curable composition comprises siloxane prepolymers and the polymer B is a platinum-cured polysiloxane.

16. A method for providing a coated moulded polymer article in which:

a) at least a portion of the surface of a mould is provided with a coating of polymer A having pendant active groups,

30 b) a liquid curable composition comprising a functional compound reactive with the reactive groups of polymer A is contacted with the mould whereby the composition is in contact with the coated portions of the mould surface, and

- c) the curable composition is cured to form bulk polymer B under condition such that reaction takes place between the said functional compound and the reactive groups of polymer A to form a covalent bond linking polymer A to polymer B at least at the interface between the coating and bulk polymer B, characterised in that polymer A' is a substantially non-crosslinked polymer formed from ethylenically unsaturated monomers including monomer of the general formula IX



IX

10

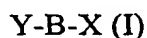
and

R^{15} is a reactive group and comprises an ethylenically unsaturated group, provided that R^{15} is not the same as Y^1 .

17. A method according to claim 16 in which the curable composition comprises siloxane monomers and the polymer B is a polysiloxane.
18. A method according to claim 16 in which the curable composition comprises ethylenically unsaturated monomers and the curing involves radical polymerisation of the ethylenically unsaturated polymerisable groups.
19. A method according to claim 18 involving a preliminary step of polymerising ethylenically unsaturated monomers under radical polymerisation conditions to form soluble polymer A, under conditions such that ethylenically unsaturated groups R^{15} do not polymerise to any significant degree.
20. A polymer formed by polymerising ethylenically unsaturated monomers including

25

- a) a zwitterionic monomer of the general formula I

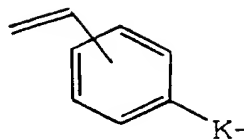
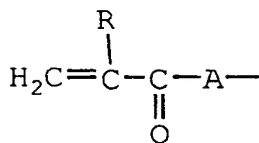


wherein B is a straight or branched alkylene, oxaalkylene or oligo-oxaalkylene chain optionally containing one or more fluorine atoms up to and including perfluorinated chains or, if X or Y contains a terminal carbon atom bonded to B, a valence bond;

30

X is the zwitterionic group and

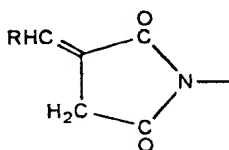
Y is an ethylenically unsaturated polymerisable group selected from



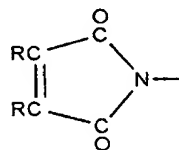
5

$\text{CH}_2=\text{C}(\text{R})-\text{CH}_2-\text{O}-$, $\text{CH}_2=\text{C}(\text{R})-\text{CH}_2\text{OC}(\text{O})-$, $\text{CH}_2=\text{C}(\text{R})\text{OC}(\text{O})-$, $\text{CH}_2=\text{C}(\text{R})-\text{O}-$,
 $\text{CH}_2=\text{C}(\text{R})\text{CH}_2\text{OC}(\text{O})\text{N}(\text{R}^1)-$, $\text{R}^{30}\text{OOC}\text{CR}=\text{C}\text{R}\text{C}(\text{O})-\text{O}-$, $\text{RCH}=\text{CHC}(\text{O})\text{O}-$,
 $\text{RCH}=\text{C}(\text{COOR}^{30})\text{CH}_2-\text{C}(\text{O})-\text{O}-$,

10



and



wherein:

R is hydrogen or a $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4$ alkyl group;

15

R^{30} is hydrogen or a C_{1-4} alkyl group; or BX

A is $-\text{O}-$ or $-\text{NR}^1-$; R^1 is hydrogen or a $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4$ alkyl group or R^1 is $-\text{B-X}$ where

B and X are as defined above; and

K is a group $-(\text{CH}_2)_p\text{OC}(\text{O})-$, $-(\text{CH}_2)_p\text{C}(\text{O})\text{O}-$,

$-(\text{CH}_2)_p\text{OC}(\text{O})\text{O}-$, $-(\text{CH}_2)_p\text{NR}^2-$, $-(\text{CH}_2)_p\text{NR}^2\text{C}(\text{O})-$,

20

$-(\text{CH}_2)_p\text{C}(\text{O})\text{NR}^2-$, $-(\text{CH}_2)_p\text{NR}^2\text{C}(\text{O})\text{O}-$, $-(\text{CH}_2)_p\text{OC}(\text{O})\text{NR}^2-$,

$-(\text{CH}_2)_p\text{NR}^2\text{C}(\text{O})\text{NR}^2-$, (in which the groups R^2 are the same or different) $-(\text{CH}_2)_p\text{O}-$,

$-(\text{CH}_2)_p\text{SO}_3-$, or, optionally in combination with B, a valence bond and p is from 1 to

12 and R^2 is hydrogen or a $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4$ alkyl group

b) a dual ethylenically unsaturated monomer of the general formula IX:

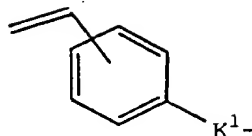
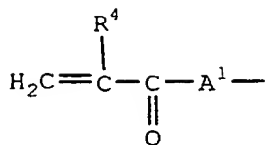
25

$\text{Y}^1\text{B}^4\text{R}^{15}$

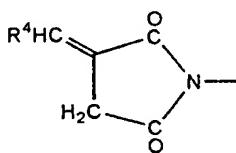
IX

wherein B^4 is a straight or branched alkylene, oxaalkylene or oligo-oxaalkylene chain optionally containing one or more fluorine atoms up to and including perfluorinated chains, or a valence bond;

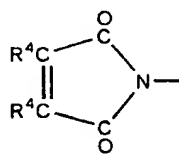
Y^1 is an ethylenically unsaturated polymerisable group selected from



$\text{CH}_2=\text{C}(\text{R}^4)-\text{CH}_2-\text{O}-$, $\text{CH}_2=\text{C}(\text{R}^4)-\text{CH}_2\text{OC}(\text{O})-$, $\text{CH}_2=\text{C}(\text{R}^4)\text{OC}(\text{O})-$, $\text{CH}_2=\text{C}(\text{R}^4)-\text{O}-$,
 $\text{CH}_2=\text{C}(\text{R}^4)\text{CH}_2\text{OC}(\text{O})\text{N}(\text{R}^5)-$, $\text{R}^{31}\text{OCCCR}^4=\text{CR}^4\text{C}(\text{O})-\text{O}-$, $\text{R}^4\text{H}=\text{CHC}(\text{O})-\text{O}-$,
 $\text{R}^4\text{H}=\text{C}(\text{COOR}^{31})\text{CH}_2\text{C}(\text{O})\text{O}-$



and



where R^4 is hydrogen or C_1 - C_4 alkyl;

R^{31} is hydrogen, a C_{1-4} -alkyl group or a group B^4R^3 ;

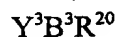
A^1 is $-\text{O}-$ or $-\text{NR}^5-$; R^5 is hydrogen or a C_1 - C_4 alkyl group or R^5 is a group Q;

K^1 is a group $-(\text{CH}_2)_l\text{OC}(\text{O})-$, $-(\text{CH}_2)_l\text{C}(\text{O})\text{O}-$,

$-(\text{CH}_2)_l\text{OC}(\text{O})\text{O}-$, $-(\text{CH}_2)_l\text{NR}^6-$, $-(\text{CH}_2)_l\text{NR}^6\text{C}(\text{O})-$,
 $-(\text{CH}_2)_l\text{C}(\text{O})\text{NR}^6-$, $-(\text{CH}_2)_l\text{NR}^6\text{C}(\text{O})\text{O}-$, $-(\text{CH}_2)_l\text{OC}(\text{O})\text{NR}^6-$, $-(\text{CH}_2)_l\text{NR}^6\text{C}(\text{O})\text{NR}^6-$ (in
 which the groups R^6 are the same or different), $-(\text{CH}_2)_l\text{O}-$, $-(\text{CH}_2)_l\text{SO}_3-$, a valence
 bond and l is from 1 to 12 and R^6 is hydrogen or a C_1 - C_4 alkyl group;

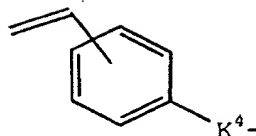
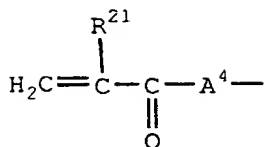
R^{15} is an ethylenically unsaturated organic group, and

c) cross-linkable monomer of the general formula X

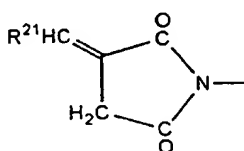


in which B^3 is a straight or branched alkylene, oxaalkylene or oligo-oxaalkylene chain
 optionally containing one or more fluorine atoms up to and including perfluorinated
 chains, or a valence bond;

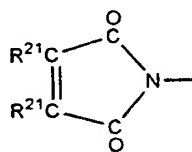
Y^3 is an ethylenically unsaturated polymerisable group selected from



$\text{CH}_2=\text{C}(\text{R}^{21})-\text{CH}_2-\text{O}-$, $\text{CH}_2=\text{C}(\text{R}^{21})-\text{CH}_2\text{OC}(\text{O})-$, $\text{CH}_2=\text{C}(\text{R}^{21})\text{OC}(\text{O})-$, $\text{CH}_2=\text{C}(\text{R}^{21})-\text{O}-$,
 $\text{CH}_2=\text{C}(\text{R}^{21})\text{CH}_2\text{OC}(\text{O})\text{N}(\text{R}^{22})-$, $\text{R}^{29}\text{OOC}\text{CR}^{21}=\text{CR}^{21}\text{C}(\text{O})-\text{O}-$, $\text{R}^{21}\text{H}=\text{CHC}(\text{O})-\text{O}-$,
 $\text{R}^{21}\text{H}=\text{C}(\text{COOR}^{29})\text{CH}_2\text{C}(\text{O})\text{O}-$



and



where R^{21} is hydrogen or C_1 - C_4 alkyl;

R^{29} is hydrogen, a C_{1-4} -alkyl group;

A^4 is $-\text{O}-$ or $-\text{NR}^{22}-$;

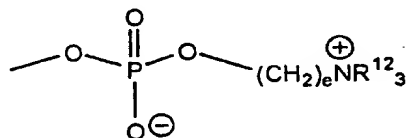
R^{22} is hydrogen or a C_1 - C_4 alkyl group or R^{22} is a group B^3R^{16} ;

K^4 is a group $-(\text{CH}_2)_r\text{OC}(\text{O})-$, $-(\text{CH})_r\text{C}(\text{O})\text{O}-$,
 $-(\text{CH}_2)_r\text{OC}(\text{O})\text{O}-$, $-(\text{CH}_2)_r\text{NR}^{22}-$, $-(\text{CH}_2)_r\text{NR}^{22}\text{C}(\text{O})-$,
 $-(\text{CH}_2)_r\text{C}(\text{O})\text{NR}^{22}-$, $-(\text{CH}_2)_r\text{NR}^{22}\text{C}(\text{O})\text{O}-$, $-(\text{CH}_2)_r\text{OC}(\text{O})\text{NR}^{22}-$, $-(\text{CH}_2)_r\text{NR}^{22}\text{C}(\text{O})\text{NR}^{22}-$
 (in which the groups R^{22} are the same or different), $-(\text{CH}_2)_r\text{O}-$, $-(\text{CH}_2)_r\text{SO}_3-$, a valence
 bond and r is from 1 to 12 and

R^{20} is a cross-linkable group.

21. A polymer according to claim 20 in which R^{20} is selected from cinnamyl,
 epoxy, $-\text{CHOHCH}_2\text{Hal}$ (in which Hal is chlorine, bromine or iodine), methylol, silyl
 groups having 1 to 3 halogen, C_{1-4} alkoxy or C_{2-4} alkanoyloxy substituents,
 acetylenically unsaturated groups, and acetoacetoxy and chloroalkyl sulphone groups,
 preferably the said silyl groups and epoxy groups.

22. A polymer according to claim 20 or claim 21 in which X is of formula VI



VI

where the groups R^{12} are the same or different and each is hydrogen or C_{1-4} alkyl, and e is from 1 to 4.

23. A polymer according to any of claims 20 to 22 in which R^{15} is different to Y^1 and is preferably $CH_2=CH-$.

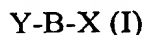
24. A polymer according to any of claims 20 to 23 in which the monomers additionally include a diluent monomer, preferably in a molar amount of at least 10%.

25. A polymer according to any of claims 20 to 24 in which the mole ratio of zwitterionic monomer is in the range 1:20 to 20:1.

26. A coating composition comprising a polymer according to any of claims 20 to 25 and a liquid vehicle in which the polymer is dissolved or dispersed.

27. A polymerisation process in which there are polymerised by radical initiation ethylenically unsaturated monomers including

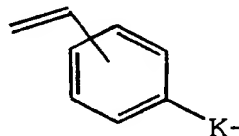
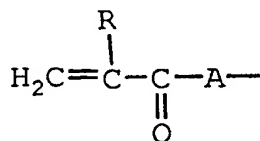
a) a zwitterionic monomer of the general formula I



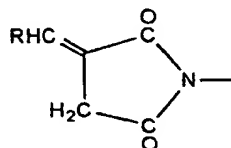
wherein B is a straight or branched alkylene, oxaalkylene or oligo-oxaalkylene chain optionally containing one or more fluorine atoms up to and including perfluorinated chains or, if X or Y contains a terminal carbon atom bonded to B, a valence bond;

X is the zwitterionic group and

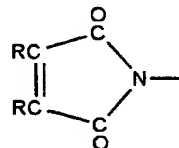
Y is an ethylenically unsaturated polymerisable group selected from



$CH_2=C(R)-CH_2-O-$, $CH_2=C(R)-CH_2 OC(O)-$, $CH_2=C(R)OC(O)-$, $CH_2=C(R)-O-$,
 $CH_2=C(R)CH_2OC(O)N(R^1)-$, $R^{30}OCCR=CRC(O)-O-$, $RCH=CHC(O)O-$,
 $RCH=C(COOR^{30})CH_2-C(O)-O-$,



and



wherein:

R is hydrogen or a C₁-C₄ alkyl group;

R³⁰ is hydrogen or a C₁₋₄ alkyl group; or BX

A is -O- or -NR¹-; R¹ is hydrogen or a C₁-C₄ alkyl group or R¹ is -B-X where

5 B and X are as defined above; and

K is a group -(CH₂)_pOC(O)-, -(CH₂)_pC(O)O-,

- (CH₂)_pOC(O)O-, -(CH₂)_pNR²-, -(CH₂)_pNR²C(O)-,

-(CH₂)_pC(O)NR²-, -(CH₂)_pNR²C(O)O-, -(CH₂)_pOC(O)NR²-,

-(CH₂)_pNR²C(O)NR²-, (in which the groups R² are the same or different) -(CH₂)_pO-,

10 -(CH₂)_pSO₃ -, or, optionally in combination with B, a valence bond and p is from 1 to

12 and R² is hydrogen or a C₁-C₄ alkyl group

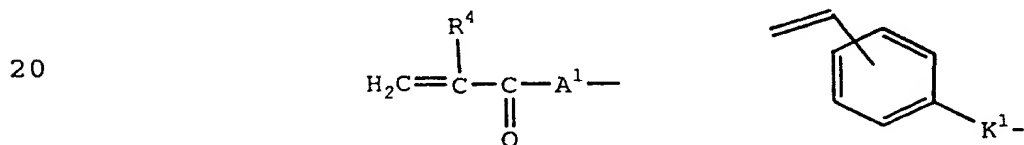
b) dual ethylenically unsaturated monomer of the general formula IX:

Y¹B⁴R¹⁵ IX

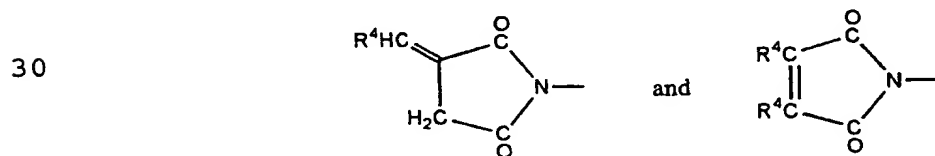
wherein B⁴ is a straight or branched alkylene, oxaalkylene or oligo-oxaalkylene

15 chain optionally containing one or more fluorine atoms up to and including
perfluorinated chains, or a valence bond;

Y¹ is an ethylenically unsaturated polymerisable group selected from



25 CH₂=C(R⁴)-CH₂-O-, CH₂=C(R⁴)-CH₂OC(O)-, CH₂=C(R⁴)OC(O)-, CH₂=C(R⁴)-O-,
CH₂=C(R⁴)CH₂OC(O)N(R⁵)-, R³¹OOCCR⁴=CR⁴C(O)-O-, R⁴H=CHC(O)-O-,
R⁴H=C(COOR³¹)CH₂C(O)O-



where R⁴ is hydrogen or C₁-C₄ alkyl;

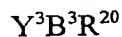
R^{31} is hydrogen, a C_{1-4} -alkyl group or a group B^4R^3 ;

A^1 is $-O-$ or $-NR^5-$; R^5 is hydrogen or a C_1-C_4 alkyl group or R^5 is a group Q;

K^1 is a group $-(CH_2)_lOC(O)-$, $-(CH)_lC(O)O-$,
 $-(CH_2)_lOC(O)O-$, $-(CH_2)_lNR^6-$, $-(CH_2)_lNR^6C(O)-$,
 $-(CH_2)_lC(O)NR^6-$, $-(CH_2)_lNR^6C(O)O-$, $-(CH_2)_lOC(O)NR^6-$, $-(CH_2)_lNR^6C(O)NR^6-$ (in
 5 which the groups R^{16} are the same or different), $-(CH_2)_lO-$, $-(CH_2)_lSO_3-$, a valence
 bond and l is from 1 to 12 and R^6 is hydrogen or a C_1-C_4 alkyl group; and

R^{15} is an ethylenically unsaturated organic group, and

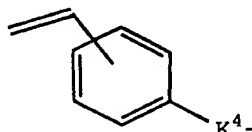
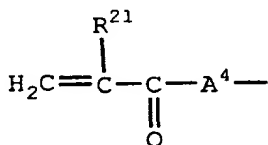
c) cross-linkable monomer of the general formula XI



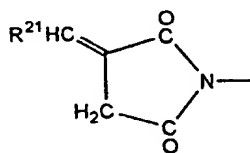
XI

in which B^3 is a straight or branched alkylene, oxaalkylene or oligo-oxaalkylene chain
 optionally containing one or more fluorine atoms up to and including perfluorinated
 15 chains, or a valence bond;

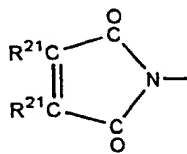
Y^3 is an ethylenically unsaturated polymerisable group selected from



$CH_2=C(R^{21})-CH_2-O-$, $CH_2=C(R^{21})-CH_2OC(O)-$, $CH_2=C(R^{21})OC(O)-$, $CH_2=C(R^{21})-O-$,
 25 $CH_2=C(R^{21})CH_2OC(O)N(R^{22})-$, $R^{29}OCCCR^{21}=CR^{21}C(O)-O-$, $R^{21}H=CHC(O)-O-$,
 $R^{21}H=C(COOR^{29})CH_2C(O)O-$



and



where R^{21} is hydrogen or C_1-C_4 alkyl;

R^{29} is hydrogen, a C_{1-4} -alkyl group;

A^4 is $-O-$ or $-NR^{22}-$;

R^{22} is hydrogen or a C_1 - C_4 alkyl group or R^{22} is a group B^3R^{16} ;

K^4 is a group $-(CH_2)_rOC(O)-$, $-(CH)_rC(O)O-$,

$-(CH_2)_rOC(O)O-$, $-(CH_2)_rNR^{22}-$, $-(CH_2)_rNR^{22}C(O)-$,

$-(CH_2)_rC(O)NR^{22}-$, $-(CH_2)_rNR^{22}C(O)O-$, $-(CH_2)_rOC(O)NR^{22}-$, $-(CH_2)_rNR^{22}C(O)NR^{22}-$

5 (in which the groups R^{22} are the same or different), $-(CH_2)_rO-$, $-(CH_2)_rSO_3-$, a valence bond and r is from 1 to 12 and

R^{20} is different to R^{15} and is a cross-linkable group.

28. A coating process in which a polymer according to any of claims 20 to 25 is coated onto a substrate and is subsequently cross-linked.

10 29. A process according to claim 28 in which the coating step involves coating the substrate with a composition according to claim 26, and solidifying the polymer, preferably by evaporation of solvent from the liquid coating.

30. A substrate having a cross-linked coating of a polymer produced by the process of claim 28 or claim 29.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/GB 99/02320

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 C08J5/00 C08F246/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 C08J C08F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 705 583 A (R.W.J. BOWERS ET AL.) 6 January 1998 (1998-01-06)	20-30
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☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

2 December 1999

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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